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Life & Times section
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40p

Palestinians hesitate but agree to attend talks

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN JERUSALEM

PALESTINIAN negotiators will attend Middle East peace talks in Washington next week, although they have delayed their departure after the arrest of two members of their delegation by Israeli authorities.

Although PLO officials said last night that the delegation would be in place by February 24, the Palestinian hesitation coincided with renewed cross-border artillery exchanges between Hezbollah and Israeli gunners. The discontent of the Palestinian delegation was set out by Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation, who accused the Israelis of deliberately attempting to sabotage

the talks by their arrest of Mohammed Hourani and Jamal Shobaki, two West Bank Palestinian professors selected for the first time to attend the talks.

"The whole peace process cannot be maintained while there is a very clear violation, not only of Palestinian rights, but of the very integrity and principles underlying the process," she said. "From all indications the peace process is on the brink of collapse." The Israeli delegation spokesman, Benjamin Netanyahu, countered by accusing the Palestinians of "organising terrorist actions," and demanded that the Palestinians choose whether they wanted to take peace or wage war. "We of course have the right and obligation as a responsible government to stop these people and prevent

such destructive activity as this," he said. Although all the previous rounds of bilateral talks have been preceded by posturing and point scoring, first by the Israelis in December and then by the Arabs in January, the latest threat has been compounded by the worsening security situation along the Lebanese border.

Israelis living in northern Galilee were on the receiving end of about 40 Katyusha rockets fired in the early hours of yesterday morning by Shia Muslim Hezbollah gunners, who targeted another 25 projectiles into the Israeli-controlled security zone. Israeli artillery positions retaliated by shelling Shia Muslim villages east of the southern port city of Tyre, which Lebanese civilians have been fleeing for two days, since the

assassination of the Hezbollah leader Sheikh Abbas Moussawi and his family on Sunday by two Israeli Apache helicopter gunships. Lebanese sources in the region claimed that the Israeli helicopters attempted a repeat operation yesterday when they fired rockets into the home of Hezbollah commander Ali Ezzedine, at the village of Zawtar al-Gharbiyyeh, wounding his daughter. Israeli political and military leaders predicted they would not hesitate to step their actions if Israeli towns continued to be hit. Speaking in the northern Israeli border town of Kiryat Shmona, Moshe Arens, Israel's defence minister, predicted that the attacks cycle of attacks and reprisals would continue.

"I am sure they are going to try. We are going to try to stop them," he

said. "I think one thing is clear — if there are going to be disturbances towards the civilian population in the northern part of Israel, it is not going to be easy on the other side of the border."

In the current tense atmosphere the slightest provocation from Hezbollah, such as the execution of the captured Israeli air force navigator Captain Ron Arad, could be enough to lead to an all out war, with Israeli ground forces going into action outside the security zone. A leaflet distributed by the fundamentalist group Islamic Jihad-Palestine, which is linked to Hezbollah, said yesterday: "Slaughter the Jews with your knives and your sickles."

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Ashrawi: peace process on brink of collapse

Minister urges new referendum

Reynolds calls all-party talks over abortion

BY EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

ALBERT Reynolds, the Irish prime minister, yesterday offered to hold urgent talks with opposition leaders about the case of the teenage rape victim who has been refused the right to have an abortion.

He issued the invitation as ministers conceded for the first time that a new referendum on the subject may now be inevitable.

Mr Reynolds, who has been in office for only a week, was trying to diffuse the in-

creasingly bitter dispute after Harry Whelan, the Attorney General, was granted an injunction preventing the girl, aged 14, from having an abortion in Britain.

Opposition leaders, civil rights and women's groups have called for the constitution, which forced Mr Whelan's intervention, to be changed. The pro-life provision in the constitution, which leaves no scope for exceptional circumstances, was inserted after a referendum in 1983.

Mr Reynolds told the Dail that he wanted party leaders to join him for discussions "on the general issues as distinct from the special and tragic circumstances of the case". He seemed to accept that nothing could be done to help the girl after Monday's High Court ruling restraining her from travelling abroad during the next nine months.

"That judgment is long and detailed," he told the Dail, "and it would not be productive for us in this house to jump to immediate solutions. The whole matter, involving as it does the most basic human rights and specific provisions of our constitution... requires the most careful and detailed consideration."

Within hours of his statement, Bobby Molloy, the minister for energy and one of two Progressive Democrat members of cabinet, said he hoped an all-party solution could be found but it was

"inevitable" that a new referendum would be held. "I can't speak for the government, but I would be in favour of a new proposal which would result in a referendum," he said.

Mr Molloy's comments reflect the widespread belief in Dublin's political circles that the Dail may be unable to legislate to qualify part of the constitution. Many people also believe, however, that a second referendum on so emotive and divisive an issue should not be contemplated and may well not succeed.

The prime minister's invitation came amid a deepening sense of anger and embarrassment among the minority of more liberal-minded Irish people who regard the state's intervention as reprehensible and absurd. In an editorial, *The Irish Times* railed against what it believed was an unacceptable invasion of an individual's human rights. "What sort of state [the Irish republic] has it become that in 1992, in full possession of authority, its police, its law officers, its courts are mobilised to condemn a 14-year-old child to the ordeal of pregnancy and childbirth after rape at the hands of a 'depraved and evil man'?"

Dick Spring, the Labour leader, drew attention in the Dail to the "frightening consequences" of a ruling that Continued on page 18, col 3

Abortion cost, page 2
Crucial hypocrisy, page 14
Leading article, page 15

Lloyd's watchdog urged

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR Conservative MPs last night called for a new watchdog for Lloyd's of London to allay public concern about the regulation of the insurance market.

They said that the government should be ready to require Lloyd's to implement the central recommendation of the "task force" enquiry into Lloyd's that the institution's marketing and regulatory functions should be separated.

The idea was originally rejected out of hand by the council of Lloyd's when it first responded to the investiga-

tion but the institution has since disclosed that it is now under consideration. There is scepticism among Tory MPs over recent allegations of malpractice. However, they believe that the claims themselves have been damaging and that confidence needs to be restored.

Marjorie Mowlam, Labour's City spokeswoman, said the task force proposal did not go far enough. "There should be proper independent regulation," she said.

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Leading article, page 15



Ode to joy: Irina Ratushinskaya, aged 37, the Ukrainian poet and dissident who was told by her KGB torturers she would never have children, yesterday cradling twin sons, Sergei and Oleg, born last week at St Thomas's hospital, London. She and husband Igor Geraschenko came to Britain in 1986

CHRIS HARRIS

Nuclear subs crash in Barents Sea

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A Russian nuclear-powered submarine hit an American nuclear boat cruising in the Barents Sea, it was disclosed yesterday. The Russian vessel's periscope, bridge and deck house were damaged.

The accident happened as the USS Baton Rouge was at periscope depth and the Russian submarine was rising to the surface. The Russian captain was apparently unaware of the boat above, in spite of the good sonar conditions in the sea.

As the collision was confirmed yesterday by an official travelling with Richard Cheney, the US defence secretary, on a visit to Guatemala, a Russian admiral accused the American submarine of operating inside the 12-

Long-term jobless increase by 93,000

BY ROSS TIERMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE number of people out of work for more than a year rose by 93,000 during the quarter to January, the biggest increase for almost a decade, according to government figures issued yesterday.

The rise was half as big again as that in the three months ended October last year, and takes the number of unemployment benefit claimants who have not worked for a year or more to 747,000.

Long-term unemployment was higher in all regions, but the biggest percentage rises have been in the South-East, including East Anglia, and the South-West. The number claiming benefit for a year or more in the South-East has reached 185,800, up 87.5 per cent over the past 12 months. In the South-West the rise was 91 per cent.

The smallest rises were in

Northern Ireland and Scotland, which had increases of 5.4 per cent and 8.4 per cent. The concentration of rising long-term unemployment in what were among the most prosperous regions reflects overall unemployment increases. Last month, the number of people out of work in the United Kingdom rose by 122,000, to 2,674,000, or 9.4 per cent of the workforce. The jobless total has risen by 714,000 in the past 12 months. Some of the biggest month-on-month increases were in the South-West and East Anglia.

The number out of work for a year or more is at its highest since January 1989, although still 45 per cent below the last peak, in April 1986.

Parliament, page 8
Borrowing figures, page 19

Dixville Notch speaks to America

The 31 voters of a New England village are basking in rare glory, reports Martin Fletcher

THE first votes of America's 1992 presidential elections were cast in the first seconds of yesterday in this remote community on the Canadian border by the world's 31 most-voiced voters.

Ten days ago, Neil Tillotson, aged 93, a millionaire who owns the town's one hotel and factory, was visiting his rubber plantations in Guatemala when he received a personal call from President Bush asking for his support. John Sununu, a former governor of New Hampshire and White House chief of staff, drove up to this snowbound region of bears and moose and delivered a signed photograph of the president to Warren Pearson, the hotel manager.

Throughout Monday Patrick Buchanan, Bob Kerrey and other presidential candidates telephoned as many of the inhabitants as they could reach. Just as New Hampshire, by holding the country's first primary, wields an influence on the presidential elections out of all proportion to its size, so tiny Dixville Notch, founded in 1805, traditionally wields a disproportionate influence on the primary by declaring the first results.

The Tillotson, Pearson and Purington families and their Continued on page 18, col 5

Battered Bush, page 12

THOUSANDS OF ELEPHANTS TO DIE



Zimbabwe, South Africa and Botswana have a plan for Africa's elephants. 8,000 elephants will be shot this year if their plan succeeds.

They want to weaken the international ban which protects elephants from being killed for their skins and ivory.

Before the 1989 ban, up to 100,000 elephants were killed each year.

The ban is in serious danger of being weakened and thousands of elephants are again under threat.

If you oppose killing elephants for their skins or ivory, join our campaign today.

If you think live elephants are priceless, help us to ensure that dead elephants are worthless.

☐ I would like to become a member of EIA and Tusk Force for £12 and/or I enclose a donation
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Other £.....
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ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATION AGENCY
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Scientists seek Churchill's secret of long life

BY THOMSON PRENTICE
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

SCIENTISTS are seeking a "Churchill gene" that may protect from heart disease despite an unhealthy lifestyle. They believe that something in Sir Winston's genetic make-up helped him to reach the age of 90, although he had almost all of the risk factors that lead to heart attacks and premature death.

Churchill consumed vast amounts of alcohol, smoked huge numbers of cigars and was stressed by the burdens of wartime leadership and political office. He was short, overweight and aggressive and had been born prematurely, four more ingredients in the recipe for heart disease.

According to some calculations, his daily intake of champagne, cognac and whisky amounted to 22 units of alcohol, compared to the maximum of 21 units a week recommended by the Royal Col-

lege of Physicians. Why some people survive to old age against the odds is being investigated by Steve Humphries, newly-appointed British Heart Foundation professor of cardiovascular genetics. "Winston Churchill is the classic example of a man who survived into very old age despite the odds," he said. "His longevity poses the question of whether he was blessed with protective genes that enabled his survival."

Professor Humphries, of University College and Middlesex School of Medicine, central London, is a leading researcher into the hereditary causes of heart disease, especially familial hypercholesterolaemia, which affects about 100,000 people in Britain. About half the male sufferers develop heart disease by the age of 55.

The illness is known to be caused by defective genes. "We also need to discover why some people are protected against this and other forms of heart

disease. The defects are not always passed from parent to child," the professor said. "If such genes could be identified in the general population, the information gleaned from them would cast valuable light on how to treat patients at high risk."

"We need to have long-term studies involving perhaps 10,000 healthy men and women who could be followed up to monitor the genetic differences between those who develop heart disease and those who don't."

But Professor Humphries discouraged the notion that Churchill could be a role model for those who, through scientific advances, might discover they had a genetic defence against heart disease. They would be unwise to tempt fate by over-indulging in tobacco, alcohol or a fatty diet, he said. "Such knowledge should be the basis for sticking to a healthy lifestyle rather than adopting a dangerous one."



Churchill: smoked and survived to old age

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Daggers drawn as Tories do battle over Lloyd's

CLAIMS of malpractice in the Lloyd's insurance market have led to an unprecedented outbreak of internecine warfare among Conservative MPs at Westminster.

Tam Dalyell, veteran of many a battle, military and political, had seen nothing like it when he went to a meeting at the training school building at Lloyd's of London on Monday. Peter Viggers, Conservative MP for Gosport and a member of the council of Lloyd's, had invited MPs from all parties to hear the outcome of the "task force" which reported last month on the market's operation.

It had been arranged before the recent spate of claims of "structural rottenness" and suggestions that Lloyd's insiders had profited at the expense of outside investors. After the presentations by David Coleridge, chairman of Lloyd's,

and David Rowland, chairman of the Sedgwick's insurance company and leader of the task force, the questioning was led by Paul Marland, Tory MP for West Gloucestershire, and Lord Alexander of Tunis, son of the field marshal of that name.

Both Lloyd's "names", they are the strongest parliamentary critics of Lloyd's operations. Mr Dalyell, the only Labour MP at the meeting, who went along as an "innocent seeker after truth", was shocked at the hostile attitude of the Tory questioners.

Mr Marland reportedly asked Mr Coleridge to state in which of his three capacities he was appearing: chairman of Lloyd's, the person responsible for the regulation of the market, or chairman of Sturge Holdings, "from which you earn £800,000". Lord Alexander

MPs are reaching new depths of undignified behaviour over allegations of "rottenness" in the insurance market, Philip Webster reports

reportedly spoke of his heavy losses and asked whether Lloyd's had any sense of duty to its members. One witness said: "The Spanish Inquisition had nothing on this."

As the interrogation proceeded Mr Dalyell finally intervened in stentorian tones. "In my 29½ years as an MP I have never ever witnessed such gratuitous rudeness and bad behaviour," he boomed, bringing loud cheers from many of the Tories, including John Biffen, Hugh Dykes and Dame Peggy Fennell.

The incident was symptomatic of the tensions that have been aroused since the allegations last week on the Commons order

paper, that outsiders have been "dumped" into dudbin syndicates and become liable to substantial losses and bankruptcy.

Many Tory "names" were outraged when it was disclosed that their colleagues had colluded with their Labour counterparts to bring the allegations into the open. The motions led to newspaper headlines suggesting "new scandals" at Lloyd's. Tory MPs complain the "leakers" are doing untold damage to the institution. More than 50 of them, including four cabinet ministers, are Lloyd's names. Ministers do not have to give up their membership because their interests are handled by agents and

they can have no influence.

At least two unnamed Tory MPs were involved in the leak to Labour MP Brian Sedgmore, and front bench City spokesman Marjorie Mowlem, of a paper put together by action groups representing aggrieved "names" for a private meeting last Tuesday of the Tory backbench finance committee.

Mr Sedgmore was approached in the Commons library by a Tory MP who told him of the document. It later arrived in the post. His first action was to throw it in the litter bin, but a second look showed that he had been given a piece of dynamite.

Ms Mowlem received her copy through the internal Commons mail but only used it after telephoning a Tory "suspect" to ascertain that he had indeed sent it to her. He told her that he had and

she felt free to comment on it. Mr Sedgmore was later approached by another Tory MP who was aware of his part in the disclosure.

A handful of Tory MPs are known to have made substantial losses, one of them, it is alleged, around £250,000. The 300 syndicates have been hit by heavy claims resulting from a series of catastrophes, including the Piper Alpha North Sea oil disaster.

In the hard-bitten world of politics and business, there is little sympathy for the losers, even from their colleagues. One Tory MP said: "They went into the casino. They knew the rules. I did not hear them complaining in the good days."

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Lloyd's denial, page 19

Major and Reynolds to meet at No 10 to discuss the worsening violence in Northern Ireland

London talks on Ulster speeded up

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major, the prime minister, is to meet Albert Reynolds, the new Taoiseach, next week for discussions on the deteriorating security situation in Northern Ireland and the prospect for political progress. It was disclosed yesterday.

The meeting, a week today, is the latest in a series by Mr Major on the Irish question and follows discussions with the four constitutional party leaders from the province at Downing Street last week and with Robin Eames, the Church of Ireland Primate, on Monday.

Mr Reynolds, who has spoken several times on the telephone with Mr Major about the latest killings in Northern

Ireland since he was formally appointed last week, will be renewing his acquaintance with the prime minister whom he came to know at EC meetings when both were finance ministers.

Mr Reynolds said in the Daily yesterday that a planned meeting in London had been brought forward because of the changed situation in Northern Ireland. He said the Irish government was determined that those who resorted to violence would not succeed.

"The road ahead must be to see what initiative we can take to put us back on a path to peace," he said. Mr Reynolds has made it clear that he is willing to meet Unionist leaders at any time and anywhere to discuss how best to make progress.

Yesterday he ruled out any immediate change to articles two and three of the Irish constitution which lay claim to Northern Ireland. "It's too simplistic that the removal of articles 2 and 3 will solve the problem overnight," he said. Those also attending next week's meeting will include David Andrews, Ireland's new foreign affairs minister, Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, and Trian Garel-Jones, the Foreign Office minister.

Meanwhile, in Belfast there were expectations of yet more sectarian violence after the Irish People's Liberation Organisation, the republican splinter group, killed a 17-year-old Protestant, Andrew Johnston, in retaliation for recent killings by Loyalist paramilitaries, including the murder of five Roman Catholics at a betting shop. He had no connection with the security forces.

Mr Johnston's death came hours after four members of the IRA were killed by undercover soldiers — almost certainly the SAS — in an ambush at Coalisland in Co Tyrone. Two of the dead, Kevin O'Donnell, aged 21, who was acquitted on charges of possessing weapons with intent by an Old Bailey jury last year, and his former schoolfriend Sean O'Farrell also 21, will be buried in Coalisland tomorrow.

Patrick Vincent, aged 20, and Peter Clancy, aged 21, are expected to be buried near the town today. Police are still questioning one of the two members of the IRA team they captured. The other is in hospital.

Letters, page 15



Trouble flares: burning vehicles in the New Lodge area of Belfast yesterday on the second day of sporadic rioting

London abortion may cost £500

Many Irish women are prepared to pay the high price of travelling to England for an abortion, Richard Ford reports

MANY Irish women having abortions in Britain arrive alone and at weekends without enough money for the operation, according to advice organisations.

While many have learned about abortion agencies from a private telephone network operating in the Irish republic, some have been given information by sympathetic family doctors in the south.

Others, however, need a room and companionship which is often provided by the Irish Women's Abortion Support Group, an organisation with people who will provide accommodation in London. Others, according to one doctor working with the British Pregnancy Advisory Service at Victoria, central London are much more self-sufficient.

The doctor, who did not want to be named, said: "Most come on their own and many are married women who have completed their families. They are often much more self-possessed than many English women."

A survey carried out in 1989 among 50 Irish women, who had abortions in England found that the chief concern of 38 per cent of them was travelling to London. Several of the women were worried about coming to the city as it was perceived as unfriendly and intimidating. The survey, by Dr Colin

Francombe of Middlesex Polytechnic, found that almost a quarter were worried about the cost of having an abortion as they had to pay for travel, hotel rooms and the operation.

Women arriving at the BPAS's Victoria centre are seen by counsellors for about 40 minutes. The counsellors outline what an abortion involves and enquire into their medical history and the reasons why they are seeking a termination. They are then seen by two doctors and if it is decided to go ahead, the women will enter a nursing home the following day for the operation. She must stay in the nursing home overnight before returning to Ireland the next day.

Tara Kaufmann, a spokeswoman for the advisory service, said that one difficulty facing counsellors was that there was little time to provide advice to women doubtful about abortion. "When a British woman is ambivalent about going ahead we send them home to think about it. These Irish women cannot do that". The cost of the abortion is £250 but with fares and other bills many women face paying £500 or more.

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Cruel hypocrisy, page 14
Ireland talks, page 1

Dentists' charges to fall

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICE CORRESPONDENT

Charges to patients for dental treatment are to be cut by 13.3 per cent from April 1 under changes to dentists' fees being demanded by the government.

The cut would reduce the cost of an examination from £3.75 to £3.30 and a general filling from £7.95 to £6.75. The charge for a crown, £56.25, would fall to £48.00.

Details of the cut emerged last night, less than a week after the government announced that prescription charges were to rise by more than 10 per cent to £3.75 per item. The maximum charge for a course of dental treatment is to rise from £225 to £250 but charges for individual treatments will fall.

The reduction in the charges follows from a government proposal to cut fees paid to dentists. Last week the Doctors and Dentists Pay Review Body recommended an 8.5 per cent pay rise for dentists, double the rate of inflation, which would lift their pay from £33,010 to £35,815.

William Waldegrave, the health secretary, told dentists last week that because of a substantial overpayment this year they had already received more than the 8.5 per cent rise, and a cut would be necessary. Patients pay 75 per cent of the cost of treatment, so any cut in fees is passed on to them.

GPs to get wider buying powers

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND JILL SHERMAN

A BIG expansion of GP fund-holding will be unveiled tomorrow by William Waldegrave, the health secretary, in an attempt to stem Labour's thunder as it launches its plans to scrap the government's market-based reforms of the NHS.

Mr Waldegrave will announce that he is extending the range of services that fund-holders are entitled to buy on behalf of patients. In a move aimed at ensuring that patients are not forgotten when they are discharged from hospital, family doctors controlling budgets as big as £1 million will be given the right to purchase community health services.

Mr Waldegrave will make his announcement at a conference in London organised by the National Association of Fund-Holding Practices as

Robin Cook, the shadow health secretary, publishes detailed proposals for eliminating "commercial" considerations from the NHS.

Under the scheme introduced a year ago, the services within the scope of fund-holding practices were limited to areas such as routine hospital surgery, diagnostic tests and minor operations. From April, all 600 fund-holding practices will be able to buy services from community nurses and district health authority health visitors.

GPs have been pressing for the change in an area widely regarded as one of the weak spots in the NHS. At present, many patients slip through the net because they are no longer the immediate responsibility of a hospital or a GP.

In the Commons yesterday Mr Waldegrave clashed repeatedly with Mr Cook over fund-holding. Mr Cook attacked fund-holding for producing a "two-tier" service in which patients referred by participating practices went to the head of the queue.

In Bath, all cataract operations had been cancelled apart from patients from fund-holders, he said. "I call that a two-tier service and many GPs call that a two-tier service. It has no place in the health service."

Mr Waldegrave said that Mr Cook wanted to turn the NHS upside down and throw away all the gains made in the past few years.



Waldegrave: defended recent NHS changes

Child snatching cases soaring

Child snatching by parents either to or from England and Wales has risen twelve-fold in five years, according to statistics from the Lord Chancellor's department (Frances Gibb writes).

The rise in the seizing of children by a parent reflects growing ease of movement across international borders, the department says.

The department, the central authority in child abduction cases, received 16 applications in 1986 on behalf of children abducted to or from England and Wales. Last year the figure was 191. Yesterday, the department published a booklet *Child Abduction* outlining the steps a parent should take if a child is abducted and what help is available.

Of the 350 children snatched since 1986 to countries that have signed a convention, 159 have been returned.

Bungling art thieves jailed

Two men who tried to steal Van Gogh paintings worth £130 million from the National Gallery in London were jailed yesterday.

Philip Neasham, aged 22, of Haywards Heath, West Sussex, was jailed for four years, and Jason Wilkins, aged 21, of Atherstone, Warwickshire, for three years and eight months. Before the raid last May their getaway car was clamped on a double yellow line. They tried to free it, drawing the attention of police who found a burglar's kit including two grenades and a plan of the gallery.

Peer's archive may be split

A rich archive of family papers risks being dispersed at auction. The papers, owned by Lord Brownlow, include letters from Henry VIII and Gladstone.

The peer is offering the papers, kept at Belton House, Lincolnshire, to the county council for £250,000. It has until autumn to raise funds, and so far has £120,000 from donations, including a pledge of £70,000 from the National Heritage Memorial Fund. Chris Johnson, county archive manager, said: "It would be unforgivable if we lost these treasures."

City challenge

THE Prince of Wales has launched a search for a city prepared to match the success of the great Victorian cities in using science and technology to serve the people. A new award, similar to the European City of Culture, might be established to reward cities that best encourage innovation and wealth creation from science and technology, the prince's Working Group of Innovation suggests.

Robber jailed

An armed robber who stole more than £20,000 from 11 building societies, to pay off a gang attacking his home and family because he had informed on associates, was jailed for 12 years yesterday. Ronald Davies, aged 28, of West Norwood, south London, was arrested when he was stopped for a traffic offence and found to have a loaded handgun. He admitted the robberies.

Hands severed

Surgeons were trying to replace the hands of Sharon Jackson, aged 22, after they were severed just above the wrist as she operated a guillotine at a wallpaper factory in Lune Mills, Lancaster. The hands were placed in the ambulance which took her to a local hospital. She was transferred to a microsurgery unit at Withington Hospital, Manchester. Her condition was not known.

Princess visit

The Princess of Wales will make a one-day visit to Rome today to meet Mother Teresa. Buckingham Palace said yesterday. The princess had hoped to meet her during a visit to Calcutta last week but Mother Teresa, who had a heart attack while visiting Mexico in December, was recovering in a Rome clinic. She had been considered too ill to return to Calcutta to meet the princess.

AN APOLOGY

On Monday *IFW* ran an advertisement which listed new MPs voted on last Friday's Bill to stop blood sports. It erroneously stated that Terry Dickie MP and Andrew Bourn MP did not vote. In fact both voted in favour of the Bill. *IFW* extend their apologies to the gentlemen for the typographical error, and would like to thank them for supporting the Bill.

Who would fight for the right to pinch bottoms?

Find out in this week's **PUNCH**

The most fun you can legally have for £1.20

BBC to launch 24-hour satellite TV news

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC is to launch a 24-hour satellite news channel to compete with Sky News in Britain. Sir Michael Checkland, the corporation's director-general, announced yesterday. He said the decision to launch the corporation's first new channel since the introduction of BBC2 25 years ago, was the culmination of four years of investment in news and current affairs.

The new channel, paid for by subscription, would broadcast a mixture of home news from Television Centre and bulletins from BBC World Service Television, which was launched last autumn in 38 countries throughout Asia and was hoped to have a worldwide audience by 1993. "We will examine closely the

ways in which this service can be linked into a UK service," Sir Michael said. "It would be ironic if our viewers had to be in Baghdad or Vienna or Oman to receive 24-hour news from the BBC, but not receive it at home."

Sir Michael, who would not give a launch date for the British 24-hour channel, said the BBC might look for a partner to set it up. "World Service Television is the most significant thing in my time as director-general. I would like to see it firmly on the horizon before I leave. At low marginal cost we can develop these services in the UK during this decade."

Sir Michael also said that the BBC was working hard to supplement licence fee income with subscription revenue, which he predicted would show the most growth of any broad-

casting revenue during the Nineties, reaching as much as £2 billion a year. But the BBC would not consider subscription for its existing services.

Conservative and Labour MPs have protested that some television viewers will be denied a national pastime: watching England play in World Cup Cricket. An early day motion was tabled in the Commons last night by Labour MPs protesting at the decision by British Sky Broadcasting, which has exclusive rights to broadcast on Sky Sports, not to allow the BBC and ITV to broadcast more than one minute of cricket during each news bulletin.

The motion, tabled by Bruce Grocott, a Labour frontbench spokesman and former television producer, said that the refusal would ensure that "the vast majority of

cricket lovers will be unable to view the series."

Sky outbid the BBC last August and has no legal obligation to provide rival broadcasters with longer highlights from the matches in Australia and New Zealand, starting this Friday.

Sir Neil MacFarlane, a former Tory sports minister, said: "I should have thought it was in Sky's interest to recognise the wider requirement of the cricketing fraternity in England."

Gary Davey, BSkyB's deputy managing director, said: "We promised Sky subscribers the widest possible choice in sports and entertainment and that is a promise we intend to keep."

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'He is delighted and I am on top of the world. There is no point in being angry or bitter'

Man cleared of murder after 16 years in jail

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

STEFAN Kiszko, who spent 16 years in prison for the murder of a girl which he did not commit, was declared innocent by Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, at the Court of Appeal in London yesterday.

The news that his conviction for the killing of Lesley Molseed, aged 11, in October 1975 had been quashed was broken to him in hospital where he is undergoing treatment for schizophrenia brought on by his ordeal.

His mother, Charlotte Kiszko, a widow aged 67, who campaigned to prove his innocence, said from her home in Rochdale, Lancashire: "He is delighted and I am on top of the world. There is no point in being angry or bitter. Mistakes happen. All that I am anxious for now is that Stefan comes home as soon as possible and that the real murderer be found."

Mr Kiszko, aged 39, was jailed for life by Leeds crown court in 1976 for stabbing the girl to death on moorland near Rochdale after she had disappeared while walking to a corner shop.

However, at the end of the appeal, Lord Lane declared the conviction "unsafe and unsatisfactory" after hearing scientific evidence that positively ruled him out as the killer.

Lesley's killer left semen on her clothing but four leading endocrinologists told the appeal court that Mr Kiszko was incapable of producing sperm found in the semen samples. The court was told that forensic science evidence exonerating him was available at the time of his trial and police are now investigating why that material was never shown to the defence.

The hunt for the girl's killer was relaunched yesterday by West Yorkshire police but it will be hampered by the unexplained disappearance of two slides containing specimens of semen taken from Lesley's clothing. The slides could have been matched against the DNA of the real killer. Genetic finger-printing techniques were not available at the time of Lesley's killing.

Police also face an enquiry by a senior officer from the

Lancashire force into the original investigation. Chief Supt Ken Mackay has been appointed to investigate the circumstances of Mr Kiszko's conviction.

Det Supt Trevor Wilkinson will re-open the murder enquiry. People with information are asked to ring police on 0800 212392. Det Supt Wilkinson carried out the preliminary enquiry ordered by Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, into submissions by Mr Kiszko's solicitors.

Mr Kiszko, a former Inland Revenue clerk from Rochdale, who is of Yugoslav extraction, was jailed by Mr Justice Park on July 21, 1976, and spent much of his imprisonment in solitary confinement. An appeal in 1978 was rejected.

He will remain under treatment at Prestwich hospital, Manchester, where he was bailed last December pending the hearing of this appeal, until doctors feel he is well enough to return to his mother's home. His condition is said to be improving.

Lord Lane, sitting with Mr Justice Rose and Mr Justice Potts, said that the original prosecution case against Mr Kiszko had been "very strong" including alleged confessions to police.

The judge made no reference to the disclosure during the appeal by Mr Kiszko's counsel that his client's "constitutional infertility" had been known by the police surgeon but that the defence had been totally unaware of it.

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Kiszko: schizophrenia brought on by ordeal



Wounds re-opened: Lesley Molseed's father Fred, her sister Julie and brother, also Fred, outside the Court of Appeal yesterday

Victim's family relives horror

JULIE Crabbe wept outside court yesterday as she described how, during the appeal, she had relived the nightmare of her sister Lesley's murder (Michael Horsnell writes). She also expressed her sorrow at the false imprisonment of Stefan Kiszko.

Mrs Crabbe, aged 32, who broke down several times during the two-day hearing, said: "This appeal has opened up all the old wounds for us. It's brought back all the memories of Lesley. She was a beautiful girl. Now everything has got to be re-opened to try to find the real killer. I just hope that over the last 16 years he has not killed anyone else."

She said that she felt terrible about Mr Kiszko's imprisonment. "How could anyone feel about this innocent man who has spent 16 years in prison? At least his mum knows that he will come home. Our Lesley will never come home again."

Lesley's father, Fred Anderson, aged 61, said of Mr Kiszko: "Now I have been told he definitely did not do it, my heart goes out to the man."

Dick Holland, the former detective who was in charge of the enquiry when Mr Kiszko was arrested, said: "Words can't express the regret I feel for the family and for Kiszko. But the enquiry

was done diligently and honestly within the terms that were legally and scientifically available at the time."

Campbell Malone, Mr Kiszko's solicitor, said that substantial compensation would be sought. He said: "He has been in prison for something he didn't do. He has lost the best part of his life, his career, future employment and promotion prospects. Obviously any compensation will be very substantial."

He said: "Stefan's case is a classic example of the way a miscarriage of justice can occur when a prosecution relies on the evidence of a solicitor, and of the need for defence solicitors to have facilities equal to those of the prosecution, including access to an independent forensic service."

Lesley's stepfather, Danny Molseed, said that he had volunteered to give a blood test to police after he was arrested and questioned last October. He claimed police had "played games" with him and driven him past the spot on the moors where Lesley's body was found. He had insisted on giving a blood test to prove his innocence. Mr Molseed said he was released on bail without charge and five months later was still waiting for the test results.

Cabbies pull out the stops to save their good name

OVER mugs of tea and plates of egg and chips, London cabbies spent their lunch breaks yesterday working out a strategy to preserve their reputation as the safest transport on the city's streets.

The rapes of two women passengers by the drivers of black cabs in separate incidents at the weekend have led to a £5,000 reward being offered by cab drivers.

Minicab drivers, who are not under the control of the public carriage office and cannot technically stop for people who hail them, are also concerned. Cindy George, who ten years ago founded Lady Cabs, an all-woman cab company, said that her four offices in north London had been inundated with calls from women too frightened to take a black cab late at night.

Yesterday Scotland Yard disclosed details of an attack on a woman by a minicab driver two weeks ago. She hailed the cab in Camden, north London, and asked to

London's taxi drivers are fearful that two rapes could deter women passengers, reports Ray Clancy

be taken to an address near by. The driver, with blond spiky hair and a scar on the left of his face, trapped the woman inside his Vauxhall Astra by activating the central locking and drove to Friern Barnet. The man, who said his name was David, banged her head against the window, punched her, slashed her face with a knife and tried to strangle her.

At the Russell Square cab shelter in central London all the drivers agreed that from now on they would prominently display their shields—3in green and gold badges with the driver's number.

The drivers also urged customers to ask to see their bill, a licence with the driver's photograph and address, for

further reassurance. "Any cab driver is quite happy to show his bill and his badge at the moment," said James Bell, aged 58, a cabbie since 1972. Another idea was a mini version of the licence with a photograph to be displayed on the windscreen.

Customers who want extra security can call a radio cab. "A lot of people don't realise that some black cabs are radio operated; there are at least half a dozen firms," Mr Bell said.

Drivers, convinced that the men responsible for the attacks cannot be licensed, are aware of how easy it is to steal a taxi or buy an old one. "It is simple to break into a cab. Mine has been broken into several times," Angela West, aged 32, one of the few women cabbies, said.

"Every driver has at least one tale of a bogus driver picking up foreigners and ripping them off. I had one chap at Buckingham Palace asking me the way," Bob Nicoll, aged 38, said.

Time-share 'oak' clock made of chipboard

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A "GENUINE reproduction 18th century oak longcase clock" offered as a reward for people visiting a time-share promotion was made of chipboard and plastic veneer which had to be assembled, a court was told yesterday.

The false description cost the time-share promoters, Globe Link Marketing, fines and costs totalling £1,010 at Kingston upon Thames magistrates court. Surrey, after the company admitted two breaches of the Trades Description Act last May.

Globe Link, the subject of an investigation by *The Times* last year into its high pressure selling techniques, has ceased trading, although the company still exists, its solicitor, Joanne Coomber, told the court. Kingston's chief trading standards officer, Ted Forsyth, said that the false description was included in a mail shot to a Kingston couple which said the clock could be collected by attending a two-hour sales promotion by Globe Link at its offices.

The letter failed to say that the clock was not oak or that the recipient would have to build it himself. Those were the two breaches of the act, he said. Mr Forsyth said that the couple had sat through the sales promotion, at which people were urged to sign contracts for a time-share and to give large non-refundable deposits, because they expected to receive a complete oak grandfather clock.

Miss Coomber said that the clock had been supplied by New Horizons Marketing, now in liquidation. Globe Link had contracted Horizons to attract customers to its time-share presentations but did not know what methods had been used. The companies were entirely separate and the quality of the clock did not reflect on the quality of the holidays. There had been no complaints of pressure on customers, Miss Coomber said.

"Globe Link would not consciously do something that would give them bad publicity. Perhaps the description in strict English is not incorrect but I accept it might be misleading," she said.

Stepfather 'killed girl accuser'

BY DAVID YOUNG

A TEENAGER was forced to write a suicide note before being killed by her stepfather to stop her allegations against him of sexual abuse, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Joseph Nelson-Wilson, aged 34, denies murdering Martina Pratt, aged 14. The prosecution says that Nelson-Wilson faced police charges and taped wires to Martina's legs to electrocute her.

Michael Stuart-Moore, QC, for the prosecution, said that Martina's respiratory system "collapsed through exhaustion" from shocks. She had been forced, at her home in Southwark, south London, to write a note seeking "the forgiveness of her mother and her stepfather for all the things she had been saying about him which were, according to the letter, untrue". The trial continues today.

Recession blamed for rising crime

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

STREET crime is rising in the inner city areas of London, because economic recession is adding to the difficulties of deprived communities, a senior Scotland Yard officer said yesterday.

Commander David Stevens, head of community relations, was commenting on the Yard's 1991 figures for notifiable crime recorded by the police which show an 11 per cent rise last year to a record 926,000 crimes. The general level of assaults had remained steady in recent years but Mr Stevens said that there was "no hiding the disturbing increase in street robbery—up by 21 per cent. It is going up in areas of London which are having a tough time in terms of economic and social factors."

He said that the police had at the same time to fight fear of crime prompted by offences such as street robbery where two thirds of those

arrested were under 21. Although street robbery may worry the elderly and women, men are usually the victims.

A breakdown of the 23,700 offences last year shows that more than 60 per cent of victims were under 30, half were not injured, fewer than 1 per cent suffered serious injury and in 75 per cent of cases no weapons were involved.

The figures show rises of 18 per cent for rape to 1,160 cases and a 66 per cent rise for domestic violence incidents to more than 8,500. Both increases are attributed in part to the increased work by police in these areas. The rape figures include 30 victims under 10 of whom six were under five.

Autocrime represents a quarter of all recorded offences. Two thirds involved theft from cars rather than taking the vehicles. Forty per cent of those arrested for autocrime were under 18.

Boy held after losing his head

BY PETER VICTOR

A football supporter who disguised himself in a gorilla suit and breached a court curfew to see Middlesbrough play ran out of luck when his team scored. He threw the gorilla head in the air and was spotted by a police officer who was watching the match at home on television.

The excitement of the 80th minute goal in the Rumbelow Cup fifth round replay proved the undoing of the boy aged 16 who, under bail conditions, was not allowed out between 9pm and 8am.

Unfortunately for him it was 9.05pm and he was at least two miles from home when a camera zoomed in on the jubilant gorilla during the match against Peterborough. The youth was arrested and Teesside magistrates yesterday remanded him into care until next Wednesday.

Corking send-off for final journey

BY ALAN HAMILTON

JUST as the pharaohs of ancient Egypt believed that they could take it with them—or at least should be well equipped and provisioned for their long journey to eternal rest—so too, apparently, did Helmut Neumann of Knutsford, Cheshire. But not for him a sarcophagus inside a pyramid stuffed with gold and other earthly treasures: just a bottle of bubbly slipped inside his coffin.

Mr Neumann, a German-born retired hotelier, evidently placed champagne above rubies. He drank a bottle every day and, like many others besotted with Dom Perignon's gift to mankind, was in the habit of saving the cork.

Mr Neumann died aged 66 in October 1990 in a manner he would presumably have wished, if a little

prematurely: he was in the midst of a gourmet tour of Ireland. Details of his will, released yesterday, disclosed that his last wish was to be buried with a magnum of champagne, together with a collection of 500 corks. He directed that one, and only one, beverage should be drunk at his funeral.

It is to be hoped that Mr Neumann's last journey, whether to a heaven where Mumm and Veuve Clicquot are on the house, or to a hell where the bar has run out of everything but Albanian selection du patron, was brief; his travelling supplies would have lasted barely two days, and the corks were no doubt long beyond sucking.

Mr Neumann did much to promote champagne in this country. He introduced to Britain the *Ordre des Coteaux de Champagne*, a club for bubbly enthusiasts which traces its

origins to 17th century France, and became its first British consul, heading the order's northern section with some 70 fellow enthusiasts around Manchester and Cheshire. "Champagne meant everything to him," Ray Perks, the order's present consul-general in Britain, said yesterday.

Mr Neumann also directed in his will that £5,000 be set aside from his estate to provide an annual party for his friends in his memory. Needless to say, he specified what, and only what, should be consumed. The interest on the capital should be sufficient for 20 to 50 bottles per party, depending upon whether the celebrants prefer supermarket or the older fancy stuff.

Mr Neumann left the remainder of his £200,000 estate to his wife Jean and other members of his family—more than enough for them to toast his memory.

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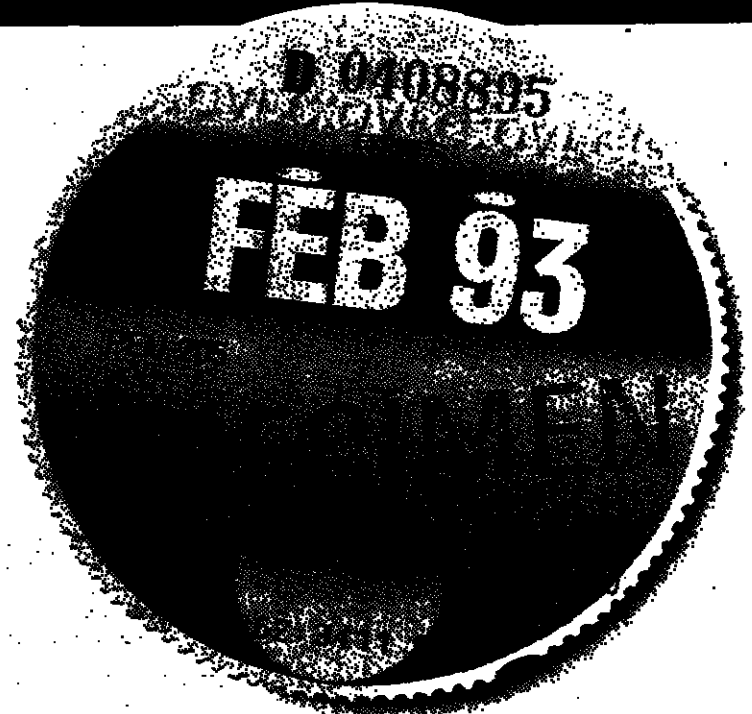
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10,000 shot in two days, court told

Slaughter of PoWs 'like conveyor belt'

BY KERRY GILL

A RETIRED farmer who served in a police battalion under German command during the second world war, said yesterday that he saw Lithuanian and German officers standing with guns over a pit where a mass slaughter had taken place.

Edvardas Goga, aged 78, who was an NCO in the battalion when it took part in the murder of up to 10,000 Soviet prisoners of war and Bolshevik commissars at a camp near Minsk, said that among the officers was Anton Gecas, a former junior officer in the 12th Lithuanian auxiliary police battalion.

Mr Goga, the third witness in the £600,000 defamation action being taken against Scottish Television by Mr Gecas, a naturalised Briton, told the Court of Session in Edinburgh that he did not see Mr Gecas, then a "tall, sports-like figure with a beautiful build", shooting anyone.

Mr Goga said that the two-day slaughter was "like a conveyor belt". His battalion was sent to the camp outside Minsk where they saw the "very frightening sight" of barracks surrounded by barbed wire fences. Inside they saw thousands of prisoners, mostly Soviet troops. "They looked hardly alive," they could hardly move. "We were told there were 10,000 in the camp. The people in the camp were condemned to extermination, to be shot."

Mr Goga said he and his fellow soldiers formed a corridor from the camp to the pits about a kilometre away, down

which groups of about 120 prisoners at a time were driven to be shot. "It was our people and the Germans who took part in the shooting," he said.

Asked what Mr Gecas was doing during the shooting, Mr Goga said: "I was just in the guards' group and stood at a distance of 50 to 80 metres." He said that Mr Gecas was among the officers who had pistols in their hands but they had their backs to him. He added: "This operation went like a conveyor belt." He thought every prisoner was killed.

Mr Goga also described how he and other troops were sent to Rudensk the previous month to round up Jews. "Part of us encircled the township and others of us were told to inspect each house to see people's papers and find Jewish nationals, to round them up in a square." He said the people were herded towards a gravel pit and shot, most of them by Germans, although Lithuanian troops took part. He said that between 150 and 200 people were shot that day. He could not remember Mr Gecas being there.

Mr Goga, who later spent ten years in a Soviet camp, said he had seen the invading Germans as liberators from Soviet domination. Mr Goga, who was flown from Lithuania to give evidence, said that he served in the battalion as he believed it had been formed to keep public order. After he witnessed the atrocities, his request to

be demobilised was granted.

Bob Tomlinson, a journalist who helped to make Scottish Television's programme *Crimes of War*, which alleged that Mr Gecas was a war criminal, said that he began his investigations in 1986 after seeing a newspaper report about war criminals living in Britain. "I thought we were looking at the murder of 150 people at that time. We had no idea at all at that time about what we were about to find out," he said.

A film was then shown in which Mr Gecas defended himself against the allegations in front of Mr Tomlinson. In it he denied being a war criminal and denied having watched the murder of 150 people, assigning troops as hangmen or ordering the shooting of people in a ditch. Mr Gecas said that he was not involved personally in such atrocities and that the allegations, made up by the Soviet authorities, had had a terrible effect on his family. The case continues today.



Two campaigners for women's ordination outside Church House yesterday

Dioceses favour women priests

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Church of England is moving inexorably towards acceptance of women priests, the general synod meeting at Church House, Westminster, was told yesterday. Most bishops are in favour and support among clergy and laity is around the two-thirds majority needed in the final synod vote in November.

David McClean, chairman of the synod's house of laity, said that 38 of the 44 dioceses approved the draft legislation to ordain women. Voting in the deaneries told the same story.

Nearly 7,000 took part in diocesan synod voting and over 32,000 voted in the deaneries synod, so these figures carry real weight. Professor McClean said: "The voting figures strongly suggest, therefore, that as at various dates last year, more than two-thirds of the members of our church wished the legislation to go ahead, but that amongst the ordained members the level of support was marginally below that level."

The synod has been de-

bating the issue since 1972, but yesterday's debate was the first by the present synod, elected in 1990. The synod voted overwhelmingly to take note of a report on the results of diocesan and deanery voting, although speeches from the floor showed divisions go as deep as ever.

The Rev Nigel Kinsella, from Lancashire, speaking for the one-third of priests and laity still opposed to women priests, said: "What is overwhelmingly clear is that the opposition to this measure is not from the vociferous periphery of a deranged minority."

The Bishop of Durham, the Right Rev David Jenkins, was strongly applauded when he urged the church to move forward and release "endless energy" by ordaining women. "There is always God, and he will see us through this."

Helen King, of Epsom, Surrey, said: "What these figures do add up to is very strong grass roots support for the ordination of women in the vast majority of dioceses and deaneries."

Tow-away fees refunded

Motorists whose cars were towed away illegally because of a mix-up over parking restrictions are to have their £85 reclamation fees refunded.

Police and private tow-away squads treated streets in Birmingham as no parking zones when they were pedestrianised last September. However, parking restrictions did not become valid until December 23 when they received approval from the transport department. Signs only went up after that date.

BP accused

Air BP, part of British Petroleum, and Morrison Biggs Hall, a building company, were committed for trial by Saffron Walden magistrates, Essex, over a 200,000 litre spillage of aviation fuel that killed fish and birds on the river Stort.

Car park bar

Plans to open a women-only multi-storey car park in Birmingham to reduce sex attacks have been dropped because of lack of demand.

Sheltered life

A tramp has damaged a Bronze Age burial mound near Ringwood, Hampshire, by digging a hole in the top and covering it with planks for a makeshift shelter.

Minister endorses ivory ban

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE government delighted conservationists yesterday by defending the worldwide ban on the ivory trade, which will be challenged next month by a number of African states.

Tony Baldry, the junior environment minister, said that Britain would oppose resumed trade not only in ivory, but in all other elephant products such as hides and meat. In doing so, he headed off a dispute with the animal welfare lobby, which had accused the government of wavering over the hides issue.

Mr Baldry, who will represent Britain at the conference in Japan of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, said that Britain would strive to keep the African elephant on the convention's list prohibiting all forms of trade, and would seek support from the rest of the European Community.

Allowing trade in hides, Mr Baldry said, would send the wrong signals to poachers and would give an incentive to cull in excess, so that an ivory stockpile could ensue. "You would start to see culling based on commerce and not necessarily for the benefit of the species," he said.

RHS launches new show for gardeners

BY ALAN TOOGOOD, HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

PLANS for a new gardening show, the International Spring Gardening Fair, were unveiled yesterday by the Royal Horticultural Society and News International Exhibitions. The event will be held at the Wembley conference and exhibition centre, north-west London, over Easter next year.

The society's president, Robin Herbert, said at its annual meeting yesterday: "Our partnership with News International brings tremendous media power to bear on the project and the flexibility of the Wembley facilities allows us to produce a range of floral exhibits, gardening seminars, demonstrations and related events."

Simon Jenkins, the editor of *The Times*, and Andrew Neil, the editor of *The Sunday Times*, said in a joint statement: "Gardening is among the most popular of leisure pastimes, particularly among our readers. We are confident of a massive response from them."

The fair is intended to appeal to all levels of gar-

deners from the amateur to the experienced horticulturist. One of its features will be its indoor venue. Products for enjoying and maintaining the garden will be on show.

The society also announced at the meeting that Hyde Hall garden, near Chelmsford, Essex, has been given to it by the Hyde Hall Garden Trust. "Our intention is for the RHS to assume management of this garden in early 1993," Mr Herbert said.

Hyde Hall, developed over the past 35 years, includes a nursery, a collection of roses, heathers and the national collections of *Malus* and *Viburnum*. The society plans to develop the garden and neighbouring farmland to 50 acres or more to include an arboretum, woodlands and meadows, and to make a feature of East Anglian plants.

Hyde Hall will be the third garden owned by the society. Wisley, Surrey, was donated in 1903 and Rosemoor, Devon, in 1988.

RHS show, page 17

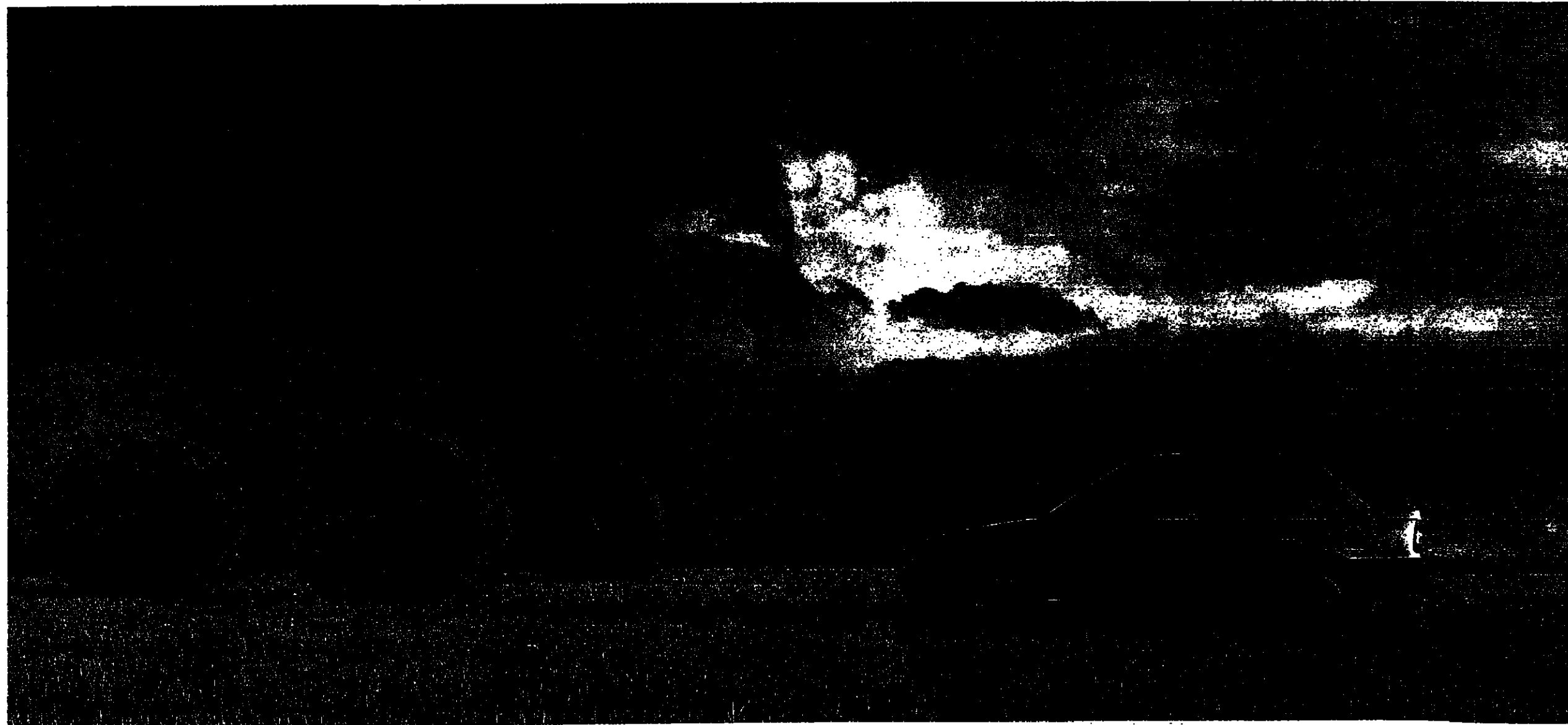
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Early bird councils set poll tax bills up by 15.6%

By DOUGLAS BROOM
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

POLL tax bills will rise in April by an average of almost four times the rate of inflation if councils throughout England follow the pattern set by the first 46 local authorities to declare figures for the coming financial year.

Surveys by *The Times* and the Labour party show that only half a dozen councils have so far managed to keep poll tax rises at or below the 4.1 per cent inflation rate, with some planning rises of almost 40 per cent.

Figures released by councils so far, roughly a tenth of the total, give an average increase of 15.6 per cent. Changes range from a 38.6 per cent rise for Conservative-run Ashford council, in Kent, to a 9.6 per cent decrease for Labour-run Oxford. Tory-run Hove plans a 37 per cent increase and Labour-run Brighton a 29.5 per cent rise. All the figures have been approved by finance committees, but require ratification at full council meetings.

Further large rises are likely when the mostly Labour London boroughs and metropolitan districts announce, over the next fortnight, their bills for the year starting in April.

The figures suggest that the government's chances of achieving its goal of an average poll tax of £257 are forlorn, with the average likely to be closer £300 than to the government target.

While the Conservatives are waiting for big increases in

London and the main cities to reinforce their "Labour costs you more" claim, Labour seized on the figures to try to embarrass the government.

Bryan Gould, Labour's environment spokesman, said that the average rise for Conservative councils and those with no one party in control was over 17 per cent while Labour councils' rises averaged 6.5 per cent.

Mr Gould said the poll tax would harm the Tories at the general election. "The highest increases are in Tory and no overall-control councils, not the Labour councils that populate the imagination of Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary," he said.

The flaw in Labour's analysis is that in many councils with no single party in control, the Tories have had no hand in fixing next year's poll tax. The Conservatives came off worst in last May's municipal elections, and many former Tory councils are now run by alliances of Labour and the Liberal Democrats.

Mr Gould said that the rises might tempt the government to delay the sending of bills, due out at the end of March, shortly before the widely predicted election date of April 9. "I would warn them not to attempt that trick," he said. "Last year's decision to cut £140 off the poll tax delayed bills and cost local government £200 million. The public will not be fooled by a delaying tactic."



Bookworm's delight: Rachel Croft, of Book Aid, surrounded by thousands of books donated during National Book Aid week for the former Soviet republics. Two container loads will leave

for Moscow next week and a third will follow early next month (David Young writes). As fast as books are sorted and packed at the charity's warehouse at King's Cross, central

London, more arrive. Organisers estimate that the target of having a million books sent by the summer will be easily reached. Ekaterina Genieva, deputy director of the M.I. Rudomino

State Library for Foreign Literature in Moscow, visited the warehouse yesterday where volunteers were packing books. She said that the response had been incredible. "I have a staff of

eight in Moscow and we hope that we can complete the distribution of books to parish libraries, church libraries, kindergarten libraries and scientific libraries by September."

Council	Party	Current 1991-2 £	New 1992-3 £	Change %
Ashford	Con	176	244	38.6
Swale	NOC	194	268	38.1
Gillingham	NOC	173	239	38.0
Hove	Con	197	270	37.0
Sevenside	Con	174	237	36.5
Dover	NOC	189	254	34.4
Canterbury	NOC	194	259	33.5
Bournemouth	NOC	208	274	31.7
Brighton	Lab	256	330	29.5
Castle Point	Con	215	273	26.9
West Dorset	NOC	215	269	25.1
Bridgnorth	Ind	211	256	21.3
Staffs Moorland	NOC	237	285	20.2
Pendle	Lab	218	259	18.5
S. Kesteven	NOC	200	237	18.5
Northampton	NOC	225	267	18.1
Lewes	SLD	245	289	18.0
Rother	NOC	232	274	18.0
N. Kesteven	NOC	205	238	16.0
N. Wilt	SLD	239	277	15.9
Chelmsford	Con	223	255	15.0
Southend	Con	206	238	14.9
North Norfolk	NOC	185	212	14.6
Broadland	Con	228	259	13.6
Walsden	Con	245	279	13.4
Chester	NOC	309	349	12.9
Taunton Deane	SLD	340	370	12.5
E. Dorset	Con	245	272	11.0
Fenland	Con	232	256	10.3
Maldon	NOC	211	231	9.5
Dacorum	Con	225	245	8.8
S. Norfolk	NOC	230	250	8.7
Norwich	Lab	277	300	8.3
Luton	Lab	250	267	6.8
Bury	Lab	295	315	6.4
Crawley	Lab	235	250	6.4
Forest Heath	NOC	217	230	6.0
Adur	SLD	265	280	5.7
Waverley	Lab	252	267	4.7
Chiltern	Con	259	270	4.2
Canterbury Chase	Lab	259	270	3.7
Southampton	Lab	255	265	1.5
Hammersmith	Lab	247	250	1.2
Wandsworth	Con	0	0	0.0
Bracknell	Con	229	214	-6.5
Oxford	Lab	344	311	-9.6

Source: Times survey and Labour Party.

Defendant had chat with juror

A jury was discharged yesterday after the defendant, Violet Lewis, had a cup of tea with a juror and asked her to find her not guilty.

The juror passed a note to Judge Lewisohn at Dorchester crown court 15 minutes into the trial on shoplifting charges of Ms Lewis, aged 28, of Poole, Dorset. Before the trial, Ms Lewis had asked the juror if she would be on her case. When the juror said she did not know, Ms Lewis asked: "If you are, please find me not guilty, love."

Murder enquiry

Two French detective inspectors are in Britain investigating the murder of Malcolm Olson, who was found gagged and bound in an hotel room in Paris. The detectives began by interviewing staff at Southampton-Eastleigh airport where Mr Olson, aged 34, of Hamble, Hampshire, had been director for nearly five years.

Diver hurt

A diver with the Royal Engineers was taken to hospital with hypothermia after his boat capsized off the Isle of Wight. Five others were unhurt. They had been inspecting Shanklin pier, damaged in the 1987 hurricane, with a view to demolition.

Bra shop preyed on cancer fear

By MELINDA WITTISTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

A LINGERIE shop has been rebuked by the Advertising Standards Authority for preying on fears of breast cancer in order to sell fitted bras.

A full-page newspaper advertisement for Lady Starlight Bra Specialists, which claimed that the underwiring in many unfitted bras could cause breast cancer, was "a wholly unwarranted and irresponsible appeal to fear", the authority ruled.

Lady Starlight claimed that it had been researching bras for three years and had found evidence in Sweden of a link between underwiring and breast cancer. The advertisement, in the Hertfordshire freesheet *The Link*, said: "We believe that the Swedish government has issued a warning that wires could be detrimental to women's health... In the meantime, women are continuing to die of breast cancer."

When challenged by the authority, the St Albans shop failed to provide any scientific evidence for its assertion. The Imperial Cancer Research Fund dismissed claims of any link between underwired bras and breast cancer.

Media, L&T section, page 6



Just look out for this sign.

Don't look in the PCs. Look at the ads. If you see the bold new "Intel Inside" logo featured above, commence reading; you're buying Intel.

But why insist on an Intel Microprocessor? Well, the very first microprocessor invented way back in 1971 had our name on it. And we've made quite a few more since then. (There are 25 million PCs around today based on tried and tested Intel technology with another 50,000 due this time tomorrow.)

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Party leaders trade slogans in jobs row

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

IN BITTER electioneering clashes over the long-term jobs, John Major told the Commons yesterday there was no easy way of reducing unemployment, while Neil Kinnock turned an old Tory slogan on its head to insist that "Majorism isn't working".

In a series of exchanges between the party leaders, Mr Major appeared to distance himself from the comment last May by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, that recession and rising unemployment were a "price well worth paying" for getting inflation down.

An obviously irritated Mr Major angrily rejected Mr Kinnock's repeated suggestions that he too had expressed that opinion, and Downing Street confirmed later that only the Chancellor had done so. Labour said that the prime minister should have repudiated before what had been taken to be his government's opinion.

Calling it the biggest rise in long-term unemployment for ten years, Mr Kinnock said at

question time that 1.3 million people in Britain had been without work for more than six months and 750,000 of them for more than a year. "Against that background, do you still dare to say to those people and their families that their prolonged misery is a price well worth paying?"

Mr Major replied: "No one has said that, as you well know. This month's increase in the numbers unemployed for a year or more is certainly extremely unwelcome. But the long-term unemployment level is about half the level it was five years ago".

Claiming that unemployment was rising faster than in any other EC country, Mr Kinnock said: "It is now obvious that Majorism isn't working. A Tory government means permanent high unemployment".

Mr Major agreed that the figures were too high, but argued that Labour policies would bring "permanent slump, no jobs, no prospects, no hope for the future". He added: "Labour don't have a policy for British business."

They have a policy to put Britain out of business."

Precisely the same slogan was used by Mr Lamont earlier when, in a speech to the Institute of Directors, he said that Labour would turn the clock back 20 years with corporatist policies for business.

A Labour government, he said, would bring more red tape, higher employment costs, a training bureaucracy, interference with investment, and increased trade union power which would all make life tougher for small businesses.

Earlier David Mellor, the chief secretary to the Treasury, and Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, launched the Conservatives' latest dossier on Labour's proposals, which in identical language to the Chancellor identified 28 ways in which it was claimed Labour would interfere with business decisions.

Speaking on BBC Radio's *World At One* Tony Blair, the shadow employment secretary, responded: "Our proposal is that we impose an obligation on all employers to train their workforce up to a minimum level. To describe the obligation to train as something that will be a burden on industry or a problem for the unemployed is absolutely extraordinary."

Of the comments by George Simpson, the Rover Group chairman, that the Tories' reliance on untrammelled market forces was "fundamentally flawed", Mr Blair said: "The only thing that surprises me is when business people make these comments publicly. Businessmen had been making such comments privately to Labour for some time."

Small firms, page 19

Howard predicts rise of unions

By Peter Mulligan

MICHAEL Howard, the employment secretary, was rebuked yesterday for staging a Commons debate to applaud the government's low strike record without addressing long-term unemployment.

The criticism followed an electioneering speech in which he accused Labour of planning to overturn the Tories' anti-union legislation which had brought about the fewest days lost through disputes for 100 years.

Mr Howard invoked the industrial strife of the 1970s to give warning of a return to "licensed anarchy" if Labour was re-elected. He foresaw a flood of pay claims from the public sector, a loosening of the laws limiting strikes and a determined effort to maintain differentials in the wake of a national minimum wage.

"That is the hat-trick of horrors which would occur in the first weeks of a Labour government," he said during the debate described by the Speaker, Bernard Weatherill, as "rather excitable".

Mr Howard was rebuked by Tony Blair, the shadow employment spokesman, who said: "Whatever qualities Mr Howard has, the key pursuit of absolute truth is not one of them."

He said there would be no return under Labour to trade union legislation of the 1970s. Ballots would be held before strikes and employers "must be able to gain access to the courts if there is a breach of ballot provisions".

The government was trying to shift the blame for present problems. "They attack the trade unions today when we say they should have been attacking the recession, rising unemployment and business failures," Mr Blair said.



Slicker cities: Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, announcing £750 million in government grants to renovate 20 inner-city areas yesterday. In phase two of

the government's City Challenge, all 57 local authorities taking part in the urban programme will be eligible to apply. Bids must be in by the end of April.



Anti-hunt lobby upsets supporters

A Tory MP who was a sponsor of the bill to ban fox hunting complained in the Commons that he was recorded in an advertisement in *The Times* on Monday as having abstained. Andrew Bowden, MP for Brighton Kemptown, and a vice-president of the League Against Cruel Sports, said that he voted for the bill as did Terry Dicks, the Tory MP for Hayes and Harlington. They had since received complaints about a betrayal of trust.

The Speaker, Bernard Weatherill, said the list was inaccurate. His name along with that of his three deputies had appeared as having abstained. Mr Bowden, he added, should take up the issue with the organisation concerned. The Speaker and his deputies do not normally vote in divisions.

Eyes right

The number of eye tests carried out by opticians has recovered from the dip which followed the introduction of charges. Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, said during Commons questions. Surveys showed that 12.43 million tests were carried out in 1991 compared with 12.21 million in 1987.

Court tally

Magistrates' courts in England and Wales collected just over £269 million in fines, fees and fixed penalties in 1990-1, John Patten, the Home Office minister, said in a written reply.

Defence case

A bill to limit the use of uncorroborated confessions in criminal cases was introduced by Andrew Bennett, Labour MP for Denton and Reddish. The bill, which would bring the law in England and Wales into line with that in Scotland, has no chance of becoming law.

In training

The latest figures show that there are about 270,600 young people on youth training in England and Wales, Robert Jackson, the employment under-secretary, said in a written reply.

Lords debut

The Bishop of Southwark, the Rt Rev Robert Williamson, who was Bishop of Bradford from 1984 until last year, was introduced in the House of Lords.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: environment. Debate on Opposition motion on the recession and unemployment. Lords (2.30): Debates on research and development in the NHS and on the public library service.

Commons urged to lighten MPs' load

By Sheila Gunn, Political Correspondent

THE Commons should modernise its working hours by cutting out all-night sittings, a parliamentary enquiry said yesterday.

The enquiry report, approved yesterday and to be published on Friday, will recommend that the Commons finishes at 10pm on Monday and Thursday and, in exchange, sits on Wednesday mornings.

The House committee wants fewer Friday sittings and an early warning to MPs of recess dates. It recommends a further investigation by the Commons procedure committee into proxy voting for seriously ill MPs.

The committee hopes the Commons will be able to vote in the package of reforms before the general election. The prospect of a hung parliament or a government with a small majority would bring tremendous pressures for longer hours. Almost all the witnesses complained to the committee of the impact the heavier workloads had on MPs' family lives.

John Major and other party

leaders have supported a reform of working practices. One of the key stumbling blocks is to balance the demands of the executive with the rights of backbench MPs and Opposition parties.

The committee's report, disclosed to *The Times*, follows the lines of the package recommended by John MacGregor, leader of the Commons. Unlike Mr MacGregor, the committee favoured keeping ten minute rule bills, a device for backbench MPs to press for a change in the law. It also ruled out morning sittings on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

"The crucial change... in the pressures on the average member has occurred in constituency work and duties," the report says. "The flow of mail has increased dramatically as constituents now tend to bring difficulties and problems directly to their Member of Parliament."

"Local interest groups and other bodies have increasingly requested the attendance of members in their constituencies, especially at weekends."

In search of the vanishing voter

By John Winder

THE decline in the number of voters registered in Britain, blamed on reluctance by some people to expose themselves to poll-tax gatherers, appears to have been reversed. Figures released yesterday by the Labour party showed big increases in the latest totals in many areas.

There are some glaring blackspots, such as Hackney,

where 19,314 voters have disappeared from registers since 1991. Several marginal constituencies are affected by the change, including York, the most marginal of all held by the Conservatives with 147 votes. The register there has gone up by 1,003.

Jeff Rooker, a Labour shadow minister, said that the figures came from dis-

trict authorities which had responded to his request for the most up-to-date figures on supplementary registers, revised every month. Yesterday, announcing the results, he urged electors to ensure that they were on the present register and, if not, to apply for registration by tomorrow. That is the last day for supplementary registration to take part in an election on April 9.

Labour is reckoned to be proportionately the loser on smaller turnouts, but Mr Rooker believes that it is important for democracy to get the maximum possible turnout. He said he favoured compulsory registration.

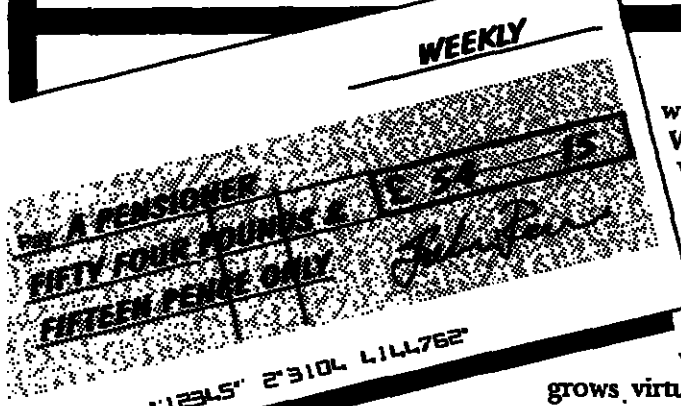
Mr Rooker and David Blunkett, Labour's local government spokesman, appealed to household voters to act now to get a postal or proxy vote. "The Tories want a low turnout. They were praying that the registration figures last October would be the ones on which the election would be fought."

He said the government had spent almost £1 million registering 34,454 expatriate voters, but only £647,000 on 40 million domestic voters, and had rejected his pleas for a campaign to get disabled people and their carers to apply for postal or proxy votes.



Round-up: Rooker calls for electors to register

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You've just received your State Pension. That's a basic £54.15 a week if you're single, or £86.70 for a married couple.*

Not much really.

Not when you've been working for 40 years. When you've food to buy. When you've telephone, electricity and gas bills to pay.

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couple of minutes to get in contact with us.

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Forename(s) _____ (in full)
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Age _____ Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____
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2. Each month I want to contribute:
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other amount £ _____ (min. £15)
The maximum investment is up to 17½% of your earnings (more if you're 36 or over).

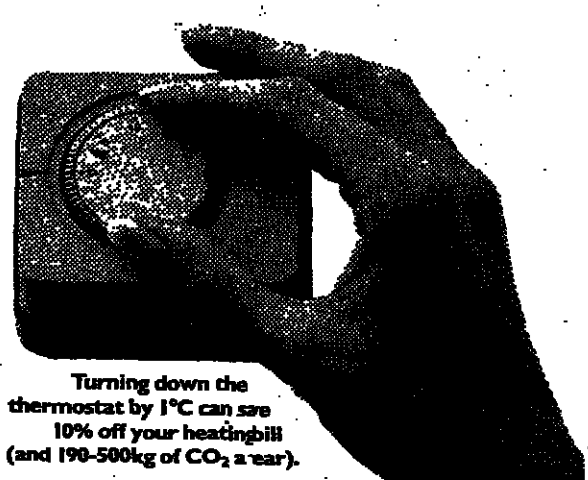
3. I would like to retire when I am:
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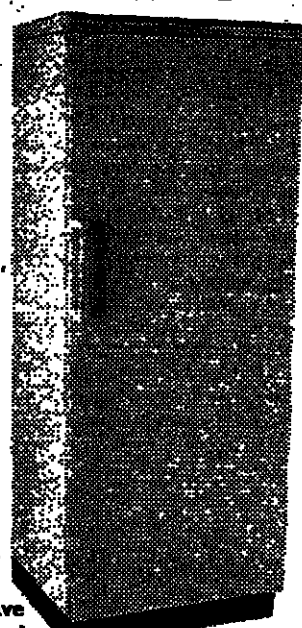
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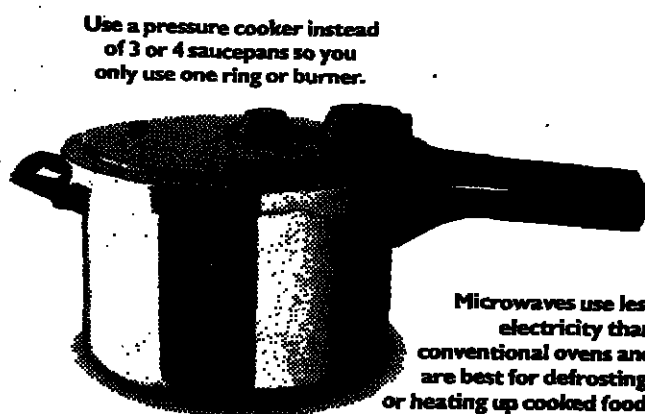
What can any one person do about Global Warming?



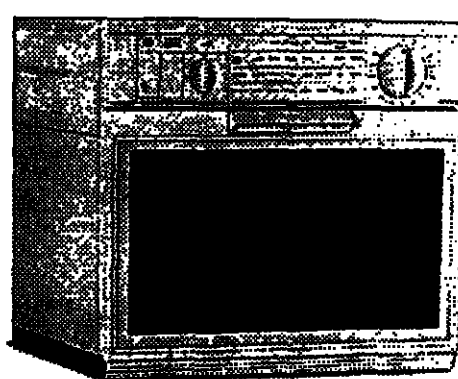
Turning down the thermostat by 1°C can save 10% off your heating bill (and 190-500kg of CO₂ a year).



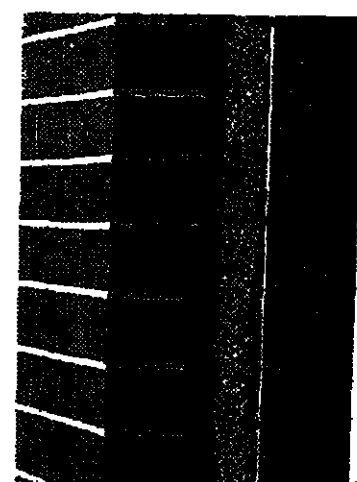
If you are replacing your old freezer, a new energy efficient model can save you up to £40 a year in running costs compared with the average freezer currently in use. Look for the new Energy Efficiency Label on fridges and freezers in your local electricity company showroom.



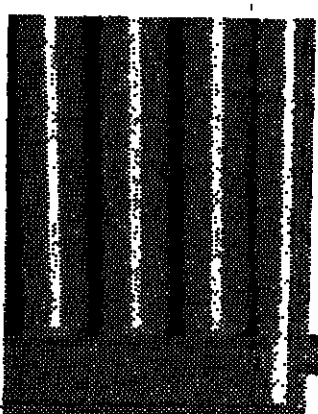
Use a pressure cooker instead of 3 or 4 saucepans so you only use one ring or burner.



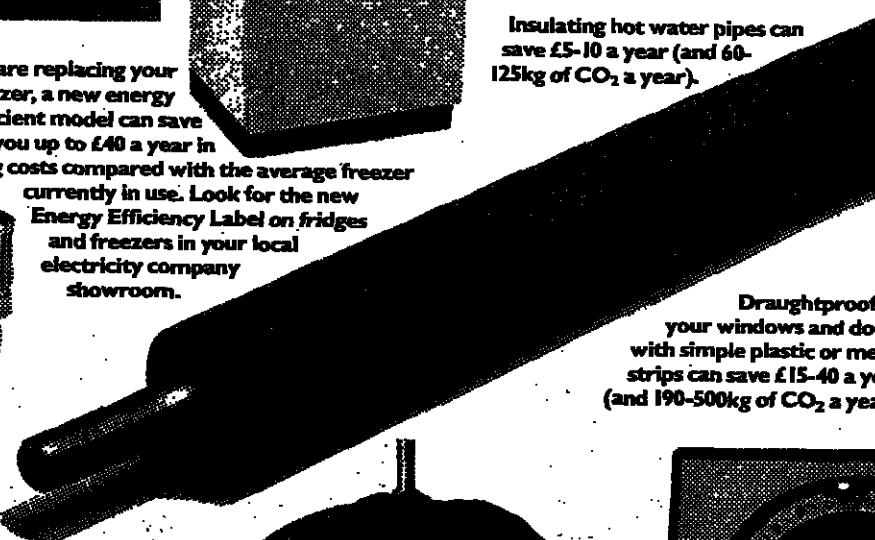
Microwaves use less electricity than conventional ovens and are best for defrosting, or heating up cooked food.



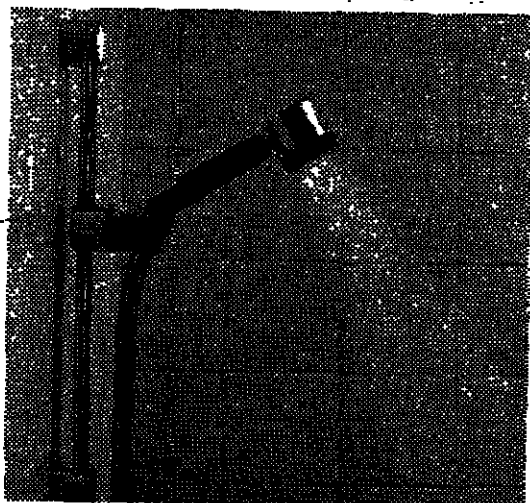
Insulating cavity walls can save £60-80 a year (and 750-1000kg of CO₂ a year). The cost to you will be about £300 to £450.



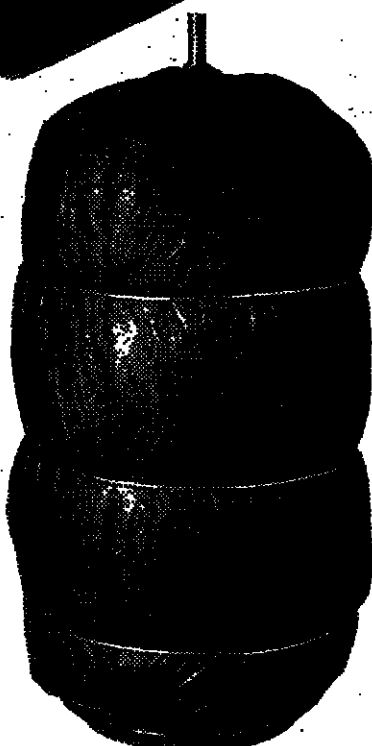
By fitting thermostatic radiator valves you can control the temperature in individual rooms.



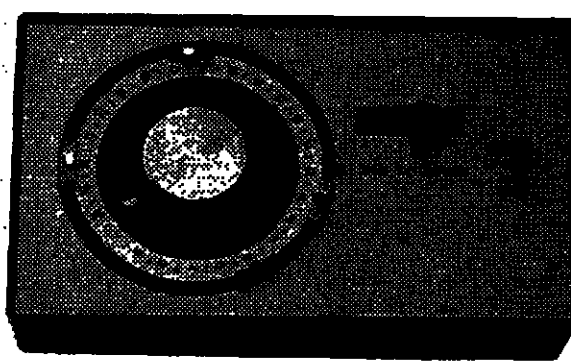
Draughtproofing your windows and doors with simple plastic or metal strips can save £15-40 a year (and 190-500kg of CO₂ a year).



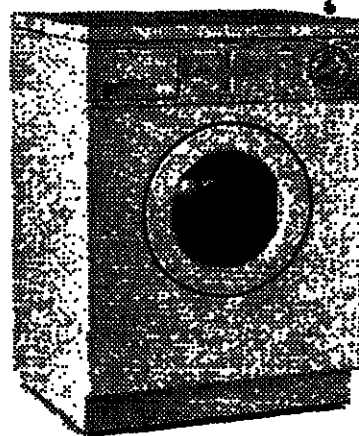
Taking a shower instead of a bath uses only 1/3 of the hot water (and can save 60-125kg of CO₂ a year).



Insulating your hot water tank with a purpose-made jacket can save £10-15 a year (and 125-190kg of CO₂ a year).



Adding a timer or programmer to your central heating system can save £20-25 a year by only providing heat when you need it.



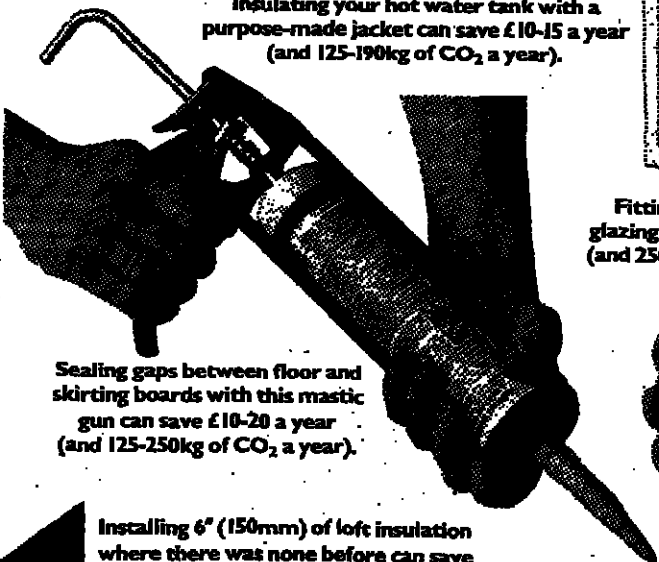
Wait until you have a full load if possible or use the economy programme if your washing machine has one.



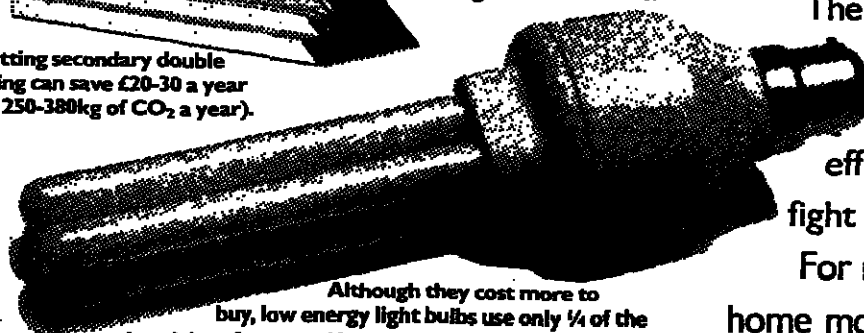
Fitting secondary double glazing can save £20-30 a year (and 250-380kg of CO₂ a year).



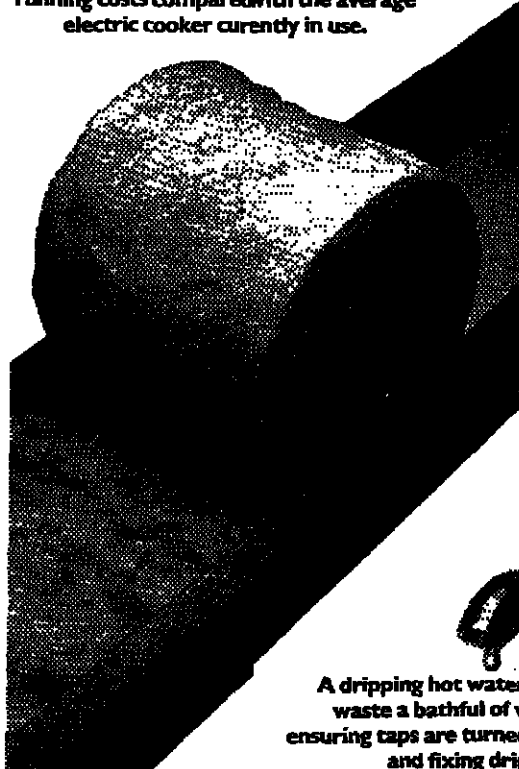
A new energy efficient electric cooker can save you up to 35 a year in running costs compared with the average electric cooker currently in use.



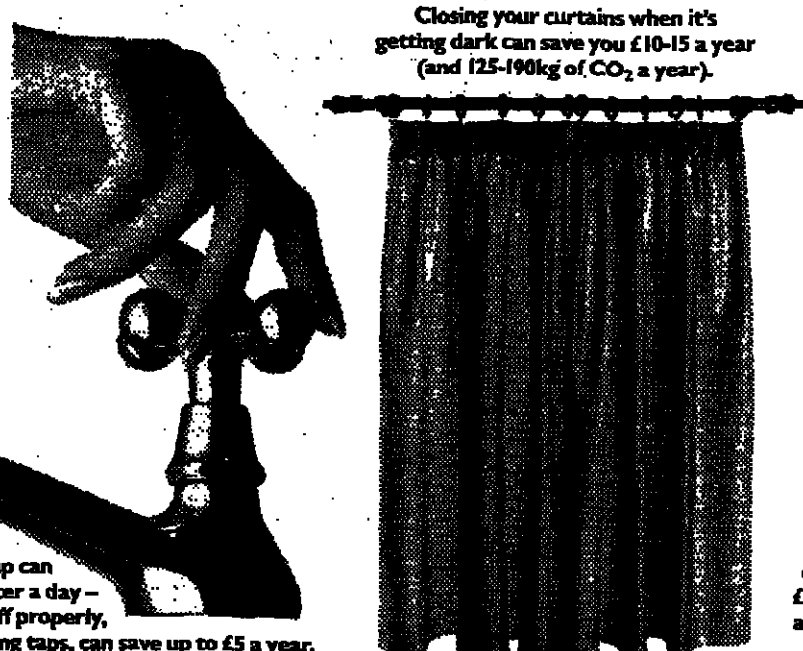
Sealing gaps between floor and skirting boards with this mastic gun can save £10-20 a year (and 125-250kg of CO₂ a year).



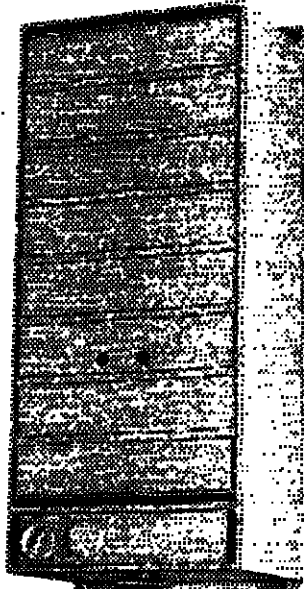
Although they cost more to buy, low energy light bulbs use only 1/4 of the electricity of a normal bulb and last up to 8 times longer.



A dripping hot water tap can waste a bathful of water a day - ensuring taps are turned off properly, and fixing dripping taps, can save up to £5 a year.



Closing your curtains when it's getting dark can save you £10-15 a year (and 125-190kg of CO₂ a year).



Replacing an old gas central heating boiler with a new condensing boiler costs extra to start with, but can save £100-150 a year (and 1250-1900kg of CO₂ a year). This is one of the biggest single savings you can make.

Global Warming is caused by the warming effect of carbon dioxide and other gases in the atmosphere, trapping the sun's heat. It's popularly known as the 'Greenhouse Effect'.

Carbon dioxide, the major greenhouse gas, is created whenever we use energy generated from fossil fuels, whether in our homes, offices, factories or for transport.

More than a quarter of Britain's CO₂, however, is produced by the energy we use in our homes and it is in our homes that each of us can make our greatest contribution to becoming more energy efficient.

By making relatively straightforward changes in the way we use energy at home, it's estimated that we could cut our fuel bills - and thus also the amount of carbon dioxide generated - by 20% or more.

The ideas shown here are only a sample of the many things each of us can do every day to use energy more efficiently - and thus play our part in the fight against Global Warming.

For more details about how to make your home more energy efficient, please telephone 0345 247 347, for only the cost of a local call. Or complete the coupon and send it to: Helping the Earth Begins at Home, P.O. Box 200, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 9ZZ.

For a free information pack, please telephone 0345 247 347, for only the cost of a local call, or send this coupon to: Helping the Earth Begins at Home, P.O. Box 200, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 9ZZ. (Please print)

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My home is _____ years old and is heated by
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Tick here if you would not like your name to be included on our mailing list for further information about home energy efficiency. ☐



Union militancy grows as German recession bites

ABOUT 350 quarry workers in the south Bavarian town of Tittling have set a German record. They have not been boosting productivity by breaking more stones than ever before, however. They have been out on strike since June 17 last year, making this the longest industrial strike in Germany since the war.

Yesterday, there were traffic jams around one of the main river bridges in Frankfurt as 400 workers from the Olympia typewriter works in Wilhelmshaven took to the streets to protest outside their company headquarters at plans to close the factory there at the end of this year.

This month, steelworkers in the Ruhr voted to stop work for the first time in a decade in support of a pay claim. The employers caved in without a fight. They said they preferred the "catastrophically high" 6.4 per cent settlement to the long dispute the men were threatening.

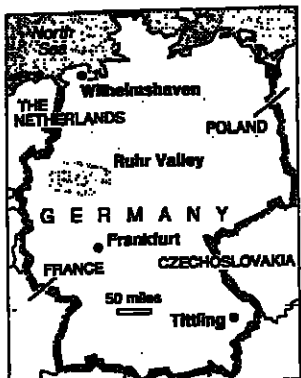
This growth of union militancy in post-unification Germany is clear evidence that the country is suffering from recession and the effects of inflation, now running at 4 per cent. Even though unemployment in the whole country is over three million, higher than at any time since the last days of the Weimar

Workers are wielding the strike weapon in their battle against employers for pay deals that the Bundesbank thinks are far too high, Ian Murray reports from Bonn

republic workers in industries as different as shoemaking and banking are pressing for pay settlements well above the 5 per cent level that the Bundesbank believes should be the limit for any settlement this year.

In its role as defender of the mark, the bank has let it be known that it will not consider lowering interest rates until the summer and that they might even have to rise again if average wage settlements are too high. The central bank remains supremely confident that it can and will control inflationary tendencies in this way and that it can build a secure dam against a worldwide recession flooding into the country.

There is little or no widespread feeling that Germany is suffering solely as a result of a world recession. Instead, unions and the opposition Social Democrats blame inflation on the way in which the government rushed the unification process with the consequent need to raise extra taxes to pay for develop-



ment of the East. This attack on the government, however, has failed to win many converts so far. Polls show that the government coalition is comfortably leading the Social Democrats by 10 per cent and that even on their own the Christian Democrats would win 4 per cent more of the vote than the opposition.

The reason, as the same polls indicate, is that the problem of absorbing foreign asylum-seekers is far more worrying for west Germans than is the plight of the economy or unemployment. The

government wants to change the constitution to keep them out, but the opposition is against any such changes.

Asylum-seekers are blamed, with ethnic German settlers from countries such as Russia and Kazakhstan, for causing unemployment and creating a housing problem.

A clear majority of voters want measures introduced to stop them coming in; therefore they back the government, not the opposition.

Meanwhile, even the Bundesbank remains convinced that, although Germany is suffering the effects of recession, prospects are already looking rosy. Its latest report admits that there was a 0.5 per cent fall in overall output last year, but says that progress in the East is better than expected and that in the western part of the country the economy has entered into "a period of consolidation".

For most Germans the worrying part of the report was not today's recession but the warning that the national pension fund was in danger of being DM110 billion (£3.5 billion) overdrawn in future as a result of having to pay east German pensioners.

Leading article, page 15
Current deficit, page 21



Judging role: Gérard Depardieu, the French actor, whom the organisers of the Cannes film festival have appointed to preside over the jury. The annual event takes place on May 7-18 (Our Foreign Staff writes). Depardieu, aged 43, was nominated for an Oscar for his title role in

the film *Cyrano de Bergerac* last year. In 1986, he starred in Claude Berri's acclaimed *Jean de Florette*, opposite his wife Elisabeth. Depardieu teamed up with Berri again last year on *Uranus*. Most recently he has been starring as Christopher Columbus in Ridley Scott's newest epic.

New deal marries Tories to Europe

By Walter Ellis

THIS week's announcement of an alliance between the Conservative party and the Christian Democrats in the European parliament, to take effect on May 1, is the first practical expression of John Major's wish to place the Tories "at the heart of Europe".

Immediate support for the change was announced in Lisbon by Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary. Euro-sceptics at Westminster, aware of the possible implications for the government's stance on the development of the European Community, hold very different views. The Christian Democrats — known in Strasbourg as the European People's party — are constitutionally federalist and are motivating force behind the drive for political and monetary union against which Mr Major fought so hard in Maastricht.

Thenceforth of their view of Europe is the Dublin declaration of party leaders and head of government of April 13 last year. "The European People's party considers itself to be force of the centre of Christian Democratic inspiration," the declaration affirms. "The development of the European Community into a federal political union represents for the EPP its foremost objective. In this context, the EPP will take an initiative to develop a European constitution and a basic programme for a Europe of the Citizens."

Further, the resolution "welcomes the rapprochement which has brought the British Conservatives closer to the European and social policies of the EPP, confirming thus the strength and attractiveness of the EPP". Party leaders note with much satisfaction that over the course of the last two years following intensive dialogue and constructive co-operation, the MEPs belonging to the European Democratic Group (the Tories, plus two Dairs) accept not only the "basic policies of the EPP Group" but also the fundamental points of the EPP programme adopted in Luxembourg and the document of the Dublin Congress (on a federal constitution).

Formal discussions between the Euro-Tories and their new allies have been going on since last April. They were difficulties over a definition of federalism, as well as on the nature of social policy, including the Social Charter on workers' rights put forward by Jacques Delors, the president of the European Commission. These, however, were resolved at a secret meeting last Friday, presided over by Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, and the likelihood now is that the resulting "community of groups" will lead eventually to full membership.

Fire guts Expo '92 pavilion

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN SEVILLE

A FIRE destroyed the second-largest pavilion of the Expo '92 in Seville yesterday and organisers said they did not plan to rebuild it. The fire broke out as workers were putting the finishing touches to the building. No injuries were reported.

"My impression is that this pavilion is totally ruined," Jacinto Pelón, the chief executive of the universal exposition, said. "I won't deny this is a great setback, but there will be many other things for people to see."

Authorities said the fast-spreading fire was accidental, and might have been due to sparks from a welding torch or soldering gun. Firemen had difficulty getting trucks through the streets of the 531-acre Expo site and workers had to rip away fences to allow passage of a ladder truck. A few hours after the fire began in the synthetic roof, the building was still burning, but the flames had been contained.

The building, called the discovery pavilion, was the largest of five Spanish "theme" pavilions and was made of metal, wood, plastic and paper. A fire on Friday in another Spanish exhibit, the pavilion of the future, destroyed a lift shaft.

Mañana too late, L&T section, page 12

Charles Powell, page 14

Grey activists tap porn poll power

FROM PAUL BOMPARI IN ROME

ITALIAN elections are normally thought of as dull and predictable. But in the next polls, in April, Italians will be able to choose from a colourful and varied circus of candidates.

There are hard-core porn stars, representatives of fishing and shooting movements, and old-age pensioners' groups, and even a "motorists' party". Several serious reform movements are threatening to undermine established parties.

The two largest parties, the Christian Democrats and the former Communists, who now call themselves the Democratic Party of the Left, are suffering identity crises and internal dissent, while the far right has gained ground, in the form of the neo-fascist party, the MSI, and racist, separatist groups such as the Lombardy League.

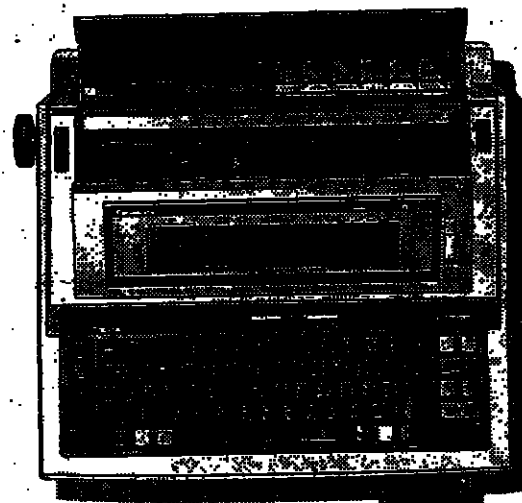
The most beautiful new face in Italian politics is that of Moana Pozzi, a voluptuous blonde from Bologna who is the undisputed queen of Italian eroticism. Her face, better known than that of the average cabinet minister, appears in hundreds of magazines and video cassettes. She is highly paid for TV talk shows on sex. Generally pitted against a feminist intellectual, she is articulate, intelligent, humorous, well-read, can-



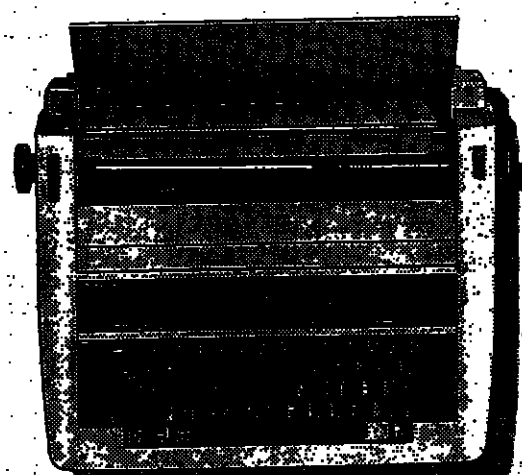
Pozzi: eroticism queen

did not usually wins the argument. - Sinora Pozzi is leading the party of Love, which has several candidates, all of them porn stars or blue-movie entrepreneurs, with a vague platform of "humansolidarity". They have formed a loose alliance with another maverick party, the Pensioners' party, and could win up to 10 per cent of the vote, and perhaps ten seats. Also to be reckoned with is the "fishing, shooting, environment movement", a 45,000-strong party eager to defend the right to ship and fish, and the motorists' party, whose ideological foundation is the improvement of traffic conditions.

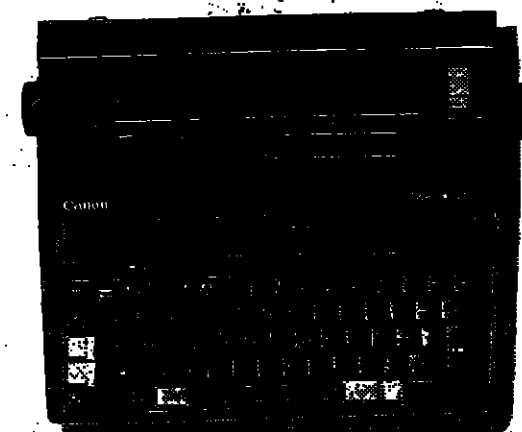
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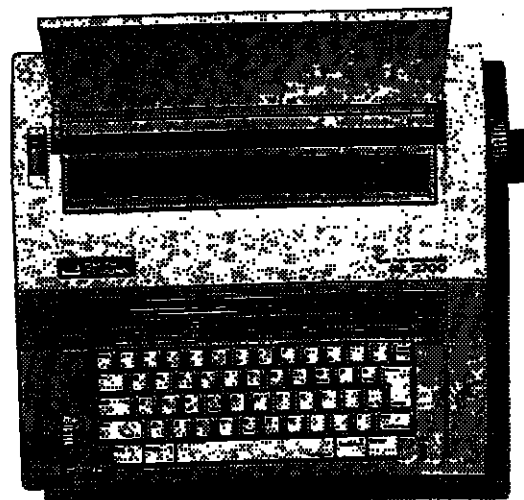
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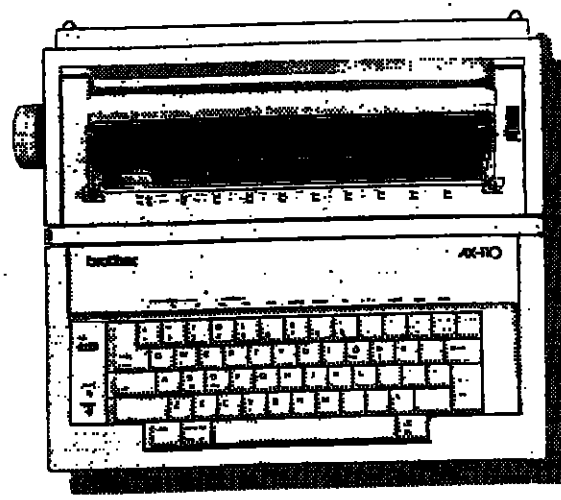
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RRP of£119.95
Panasonic KXR-194.....£30 off
RRP of£169.95



Canon Typestar 210.....£30 off
RRP of£169.95
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Handwritten signature or mark.

Moscow loses hope of saving army

Baker inches closer to missile accord

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

AMERICA and Russia agreed yesterday to consider joint systems for averting nuclear attack, but they failed to agree on the desired maximum size of long-range nuclear arsenals.

James Baker, the American Secretary of State, and Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian foreign minister, said that the views of the two sides on long-range rockets were getting steadily closer and they pledged that negotiations would be speeded up. After a two-day visit to Moscow by Mr Baker, the ministers said they hoped a broad package

of landmark accords on disarmament and areas such as economic co-operation would be ready for signing when President Yeltsin visits President Bush in July.

Both sides emphasised that the "new spirit" in their relations was undimmed despite the relative lack of concrete progress. Washington remains committed, however, to its proposal for a 4,500 limit on long-range nuclear warhead stocks, while Russia wants a ceiling of 2,500 warheads. Mr Baker said negotiations on these issues "made some progress... but did not

resolve all the issues that are at stake".

In another sign that the American administration is trying to dampen Russia's new-found zeal for disarmament and co-operation, Mr Baker commented cautiously on the prospects for joint systems to detect and even counter nuclear strikes. Referring to Mr Yeltsin's proposal that the Cold War adversaries should co-operate over anti-missile defences, he said: "We agreed that we would talk about the possibility of sharing technology in this area, and we agreed that in consultation with our allies we would talk about the possibility of a ballistic missile early-warning centre."

The reference to allies suggested that European members of Nato, and Russia's partners in the Commonwealth of Independent States, would have access to data from the proposed early-warning system. While Mr Kozyrev urged rapid progress to turn the new relationship into an alliance, the American side focused more on the need to decommission nuclear weapons in an increasingly chaotic Russia and its own eagerness to help.

The Russian foreign minister said joint groups of American and Russian experts would soon be established to oversee the destruction of nuclear arms and the storage of nuclear equipment released during this process.

Marshal Yevgeni Shaposhnikov, the military commander of the commonwealth, predicted yesterday that the forces would eventually break up into separate national armies. He also spoke of a serious dispute with Ukraine over a fleet of nuclear bombers and other military aircraft.

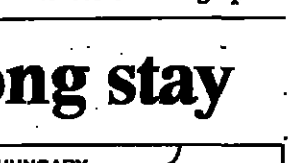
At the same time Sergei Shakhrai, a senior aide to President Yeltsin, served warning that the collapse of the commonwealth would lead to a coup. Mr Shakhrai told the Russian parliament that there was "a 100 per cent chance" of a military coup if the Commonwealth of Independent States disintegrated.

By contrast the marshal, who has hitherto sought to put a brave face on the former Soviet republics' efforts to shore up their military relations, admitted to reporters: "I think that the army will in the end split up into national divisions."

The Pentagon plan is likely to be presented as a response to requests to Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, from the armed services committees of the Senate and House of Representatives to explain why he believes US forces should be maintained at 1.6 million, only a reduction of 2.5 per cent, despite the end of the Cold War.

The New York Times said it had received the plan from a Pentagon official who wanted to expose "vigorous attempts within the military establishment to invent a menu of alarming war scenarios".

Submarines collide, page 1



Shaposhnikov: sees forces breaking up

US sets sights on new old enemy

A leaked list of America's potential adversaries in the next decade has embarrassed Pentagon planners, Charles Bremner writes in New York

The Kremlin and its generals may have done away with the GP, or *glavni protivnik* (main adversary), their old tag for the United States, but the Pentagon is already polishing a new acronym in case the Evil Empire is reborn — the Regt.

Diplomatic embarrassment and congressional scepticism have been provoked by the disclosure this week that the Pentagon views the "resurgent/emergent global threat", its euphemism for an aggressive Russia, as well as four other countries, as potential enemies who could start wars with America over the next decade.

"It is not particularly helpful to find we're being called the enemy again," a Russian diplomat at the United Nations said yesterday after American newspapers published the Pentagon's detailed scenarios of potential foreign conflicts, a confidential project for planning US defence budgets to 2000.

Leaked the day that James Baker, the American Secretary of State, was busy in Moscow helping President Yeltsin arrange the dismantling of Soviet nuclear weapons, the Pentagon report says the US must plan to fight wars in two regions at once, one of them possibly with a revised form of the old Warsaw Pact.

The Pentagon plan, which also lists Iraq, the Philippines, North Korea and Panama as potential theatres of war, has drawn accusations from congressional staff members that the defence department may be seeking to justify continued heavy spending by exaggerating the dangers of conflict.

In the Russia scenario, an "expansionist authoritarian government" seizes power in Moscow and bullies smaller former Soviet republics on the issue of rights for the Russian mi-

norities dispersed throughout the former union. With the support of Belorussia, Moscow demands autonomy for Russians in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia and, after a six-month build-up of tensions, it sends 18 armoured divisions in a *Blitzkrieg* along the Polish-Lithuanian border, according to *The New York Times*'s version of the secret report.

Lithuania would then seek Nato help, requiring the dispatch of a rapid deployment force and more than seven American combat divisions and other units. Extending that scenario, the Pentagon sees the possibility that by 2001, the Regt could have evolved into an aggressive strategic threat to America around the globe, requiring a full defence build-up in response.

The other projected wars involving American troops include an invasion of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, by a revived Iraq, a North Korean attack on South Korea, simultaneous assaults by Iraq and North Korea, coups affecting US citizens or vital interests in Panama and the Philippines. The supposition of a US assault on a hostile Philippines sparked private indignation in Manila yesterday.

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Letters, page 15

UN force plans long stay

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

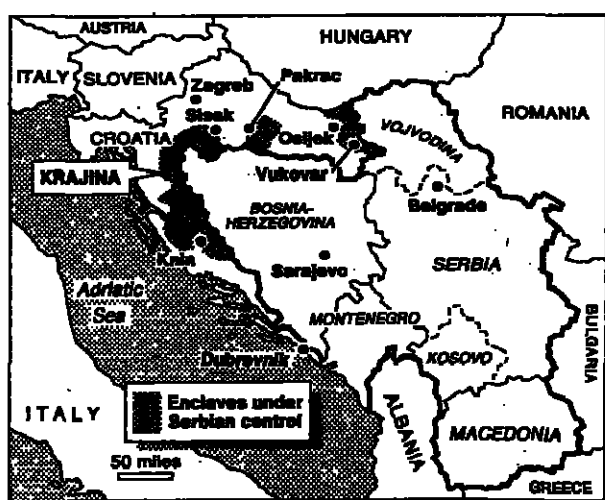
BOUOTROS Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, wants a peacekeeping force in Croatia to remain there until a political settlement is reached, even if the Croatian government asks it to withdraw.

His proposal, in a report to the security council, is aimed at stopping the breakaway republic from wrecking the peacekeeping plan by ordering the "blue berets" off its territory and asserting sovereignty over the three Serb enclaves that the UN force is to protect.

In his report, Dr Boutros Ghali recommended that the force be sent for a minimum of 12 months, during which it could not be withdrawn without a specific decision of the security council. After the first year, Croatia would be free to expel the peacekeepers unless a new security council resolution were passed.

Diplomats said the 15-nation council, which must approve all UN peacekeeping operations, would almost certainly endorse the proposal proposal later this week or early next week, thus breaking with its normal practice of deploying peacekeeping troops only with the consent of all sides in a conflict.

Dr Boutros Ghali also proposed that the so-called UN



Protection Force (Unprofor) be of 10,400 combat troops supplemented by 2,840 support troops, including a contingent from Britain, 100 military observers and 530 civilian police. The entire force of nearly 14,000 men, the largest since 20,000 peacekeepers were sent to the Congo in 1960, would be equipped with four aircraft and 26 helicopters at an annual cost unofficially estimated at \$400 million (£226 million).

The force will be deployed within weeks to police the Serb enclaves of Krajina and eastern and western Slavonia as well as border areas of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Local militias in these pro-

jected areas will be disarmed and existing local authorities would continue to operate under UN supervision pending an overall political settlement. The Yugoslav army will withdraw from the parts of Croatia under its control.

Belgrade: UN troops will be "welcome" in Serb enclaves of Croatia, according to Mile Paspalj, the speaker of one of two rival assemblies (Tim Judah writes). He was speaking a day after Milan Babic, the president of the self-proclaimed Republic of Serbian Krajina, dismissed attempts to depose him by the assembly controlled by Mr Paspalj.



Sly humour: Sylvester Stallone with Oprah Winfrey in a recording of her talk show in which he introduces model Jennifer Flavin, his girlfriend, gives a tour of his Malibu beach home, and exhibits some of his art

Gone fishing for friends in Central Asia

FROM CAROL GIACOMO IN TASHKENT, UZBEKISTAN

WHEN James Baker, the American Secretary of State, visited the Central Asian republics before his present talks in Moscow, it was not all work. Quite out of character, he set business aside and tasted some local culture.

Mr Baker is working to develop ties with the former Soviet republics, including Muslim Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uz-

bekistan. The secretary of state, who normally is reserved, even changed his suit for local dress, on one occasion trying an Uzbek quilted coat belted with an orange scarf and square black and white box hat.

When his 12-car motorcade drove into Romit, Tajikistan (population 2,000), it filled the town square and was greeted by hundreds of

villagers, dancing girls and a band playing traditional music on a lute-like instrument and a drum. Mr Baker, wearing the cowboy hat, shearing coat and boots of his native Texas, walked a short distance to the wooden home of Abousamat Abdul Vahobov, a local teacher.

Seated cross-legged on a cushion in a room lit by a single bulb and heated by a

small stove, he had a traditional feast. Bowls of apples, nuts, raisins, sweets and huge round loaves of flat bread were among the offerings. Mr Baker ate roast pheasant with his fingers.

He asked about local fishing techniques. "Do you use fly-casting?" he asked one villager. "Nets", came the reply. The visitor fishes for fun, the villagers for survival. (Reuters)



Most people have little or no idea that every day nuclear power provides 15 million homes with electricity and saves the emission of 135,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide, and that at the last count 180,000 people depended on it for employment.

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The race for the White House: 250,000 voters go to New Hampshire primary polls

Battered Bush still looks out of touch

MARTIN FLETCHER IN CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

MORE than a quarter of a million New Hampshire voters went to the polls yesterday after an extraordinary first primary that turned conventional wisdoms inside out and promises to influence America's 1992 presidential election profoundly.

George Bush, seemingly unassailable just a few months ago, was pummeled by an inspired, home-made conservative challenge from Patrick Buchanan that in ten weeks left the president looking directionless, unprincipled and out of touch with his country's acute economic distress. He is being pulled to the right to keep his party united. The White House re-election team looked inept.

The Democrats, with their best chance of recapturing the White House since 1976, had hoped for a decisive primary that would unite the party rapidly behind one strong candidate. Instead,

Bill Clinton was wounded, perhaps fatally, by charges of draft-dodging and adultery.

The "unelectable" Paul Tsongas, with neither money nor charisma but a single resonant theme, came from nowhere. But, far from uniting the party, a Tsongas victory could lead to turmoil, with bigger-name Democrats jumping belatedly into the race for what some term the most valuable nomination since Watergate.

The primary has also exposed a sea change in the public mood since 1988, when the voters focused on little more than the rising values of their homes. This year substance and policy are in, 30-second soundbites out. The electorate has grown deeply sceptical of politicians' promises. If he achieves nothing else, Mr Tsongas has demonstrated that America is at last turning to economic responsibility, but it is also a

country that is turning inward. Beyond populist denunciations of Japanese protectionism, foreign issues have barely registered.

With so much at stake in this traditional arbiter of politicians' futures, the candidates have stopped at nothing in the past few days to maximise their support. Bob Kerrey's campaign even offered a baby-sitting service yesterday so that mothers could vote.

Mr Bush spent Monday appealing for support via satellite links with local television and radio stations. "Don't worry about trying to send a message," he implored, acknowledging that he had been left in no doubt about the voters' anger. Final polls showed his support slipping below 60 per cent and Mr Buchanan promised "a wake-up call the White House will never forget".

Mr Tsongas, anticipating victory, sought to pre-empt new entrants by rejecting the idea that he has no appeal outside his native New England. A powerful idea transcended regional considerations, said the former senator. He hopes for a second victory in next week's caucuses in Maine and he will then concentrate his efforts on Maryland, Georgia and Colorado.

But even as he spoke, party leaders in Washington appeared to encourage the idea of new entrants. "A lot depends on what happens in New Hampshire," Tom Foley, the House Speaker, said. "Democracy is best served by competition." George Mitchell, the Senate majority leader, said. Richard Gephardt, the House leader, and Lloyd Bentsen, the Texas senator, are being pressed to stand. Mario Cuomo, New York's governor, was watching the result of yesterday's "Draft Cuomo" write-in effort in New Hampshire.

All camps were playing the expectations game furiously, knowing very well that winners can end looking like losers and vice-versa.

Village votes, page 1

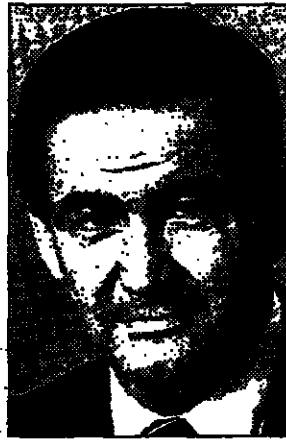


Shaken and stirred: the first lady, Barbara Bush, being greeted at Concord airport, New Hampshire, yesterday, as she arrived to give last-minute support to her husband's re-election campaign

Platforms of the main candidates



● **GEORGE BUSH** (Republican) is trying to persuade voters that he is concerned, that he is the steady, experienced hand they need, that he has remained true to conservative tenets. He described his recent Japan trip as a job-seeking mission and laid out a modest health plan centered on vouchers and tax breaks to help lower and middle-income families.



● **PAT BUCHANAN** (Republican), running a noisy "America First" campaign, claims that he is the only true conservative in the Republican race. He accuses Bush of too much compromise with Congress and too much concern for international affairs. He says he would phase out foreign aid and crack down on unco-operative, trading partners.

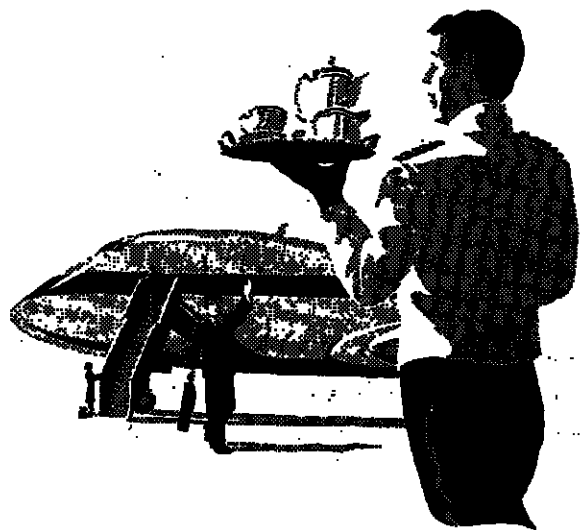


● **PAUL TSONGAS** (Democrat) reveals in his image as a tough economic realist prepared to give the country a dose of painful medicine — like the bone-marrow transplant that enabled him to survive cancer. A social liberal, the former Massachusetts senator also supports "industrial power." He opposes a middle-class tax cut backed by his party.



● **BILL CLINTON** (Democrat) presents himself as the bridge-builder, the candidate who can bring the country together. The Arkansas governor's appealing style on the stump, detailed economic plan and perceived capacity to win a presidential election pushed him to the top of the field — until the draft and infidelity issues hit his campaign.

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Punjab poll and new march in Kashmir strain security

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN AMRITSAR AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AS DELHI deployed a huge armed force to monitor Punjab's first elections in seven years, the Indian government was faced with a fresh security threat in Kashmir when a leading militant announced a huge march across the line dividing Indian and Pakistani-held Kashmir.

"I will be leading hundreds of thousands of people from Srinagar to the other side," Javed Ahmed Mir, the military commander of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, told a London news conference. He said the plan was to meet a similar march from the Pakistani-ruled part of Kashmir on March 30 led by Amanullah Khan, the front leader, whose first attempt to cross the dividing line was stopped by Pakistani police last week.

The Press Trust of India yesterday quoted Sharad Pawar, the defence minister, as saying that India would welcome Mr Khan, because he was wanted on several murder charges. "He is wanted here in half a dozen cases of murder," Mr Pawar said.

The Punjab polls have turned into something of a farce, with all but one small faction of the traditional Sikh party, Akali Dal, boycotting



the election. Voter turnout among Sikhs in rural areas is likely to be close to zero.

In spite of the largest peace-time deployment of security forces in India, candidates in urban areas travel with 20 or 30 armed guards each: no candidate of any party has dared campaign in the countryside because of threats from Sikh gunmen.

The election has turned essentially into a contest between two Hindu-backed parties, Congress (I) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Overall turnout on polling day today is certain to be very low, although the possibility of widespread stuffing of ballot boxes by police at the behest of influential politicians might artificially bolster the official figures.

Extremist groups have said any Sikhs caught voting will be shot. Notices have gone up in some gurdwaras (Sikh temples) saying that anybody participating in the poll faces excommunication. The number of candidates standing is the lowest ever, since they all face death threats.

The Congress will probably gain the largest share of seats in the 117-member state assembly. But it will face uncustomed challenges from both the BJP and other Hindu-backed parties, which will probably deny it an outright majority, resulting in a frail coalition.

Thirteen parliamentary seats for the Lok Sabha (lower house) are also at stake. The outcome will be particularly important for Congress, which is 15 or 16 votes short of a majority in the lower house. It hopes to capture eight or nine of the seats, strengthening its position as it approaches the crucial budget session of parliament. The party opposed plans for elections in the state last June, saying terrorism made a free and fair poll impossible. Many observers believe it is participating this time simply for the chance to bolster its parliamentary position.

Canadian tribes shift status goal

FROM JOHN BEST IN OTTAWA

CANADIAN government and native Indian leaders have defused a dispute that threatened to stop the country's advance towards a constitutional settlement.

Last week, Ovide Mercredi, the national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, demanded that Canada's population of almost one million Indians be officially recognised as a "distinct society" — the same status that French-speaking Quebec has been demanding.

Joe Clark, the constitutional affairs minister who has been masterminding the effort to head off Quebec's secession and save Canada from dismemberment, was clearly angered by Chief Mercredi's intervention. He denounced the action as "dangerous" and said that if the native leader persisted, he would be jeopardising the Indians' claim to the right of aboriginal self-government.

Chief Mercredi, who frequently attends constitutional meetings in full Indian regalia, backed down. He said after a meeting with Mr Clark that it may be possible to achieve native goals by "other means" than distinct society status. He apparently was referring to a national

conference on native issues that Mr Clark agreed to organise.

The conference could be a stormy one, however. Arguments are certain to arise over the practical meaning of the notion of aboriginal self-government and how much real power the Indians will have.

The last in a planned series of five regional conferences on the constitution took place at the weekend in Vancouver. These highly unstructured conferences have been designed to give ordinary Canadians as well as politicians the chance to voice what kind of country they would like to see emerge. There was a surprising degree of unanimity in favour of accepting Quebec's demand to be recognised as a distinct society within Canada. Previous attempts to forge a national consensus had come to grief over the issue, frustrating any chance of healing the ten-year-old constitutional rift between Quebec and English Canada.

Broad understanding was also reached on aboriginal self-government, on the need for reforming the Senate, and the need for some realignment of powers between the federal government and the ten provinces.

Japanese statesman linked to scandal

London: Yasuhiro Nakasone is the second former Japanese prime minister to be named in connection with a transport firm under investigation for channelling funds to politicians (David Watts writes).

Mainichi Shimbun, a leading Tokyo daily, alleged that Mr Nakasone's think-tank, the International Institute for Global Peace, had received the equivalent of £2.16 million (500 million yen) from the Sagawa Kyubin group. Zenko Suzuki, the former prime minister, has agreed to give testimony on his links to the company.

Algeria party offers talks

Algiers: The main fundamentalist party here, the Islamic Salvation Front, has offered to talk to Algeria's military-backed authorities (Alfred Hermida writes). The offer marks a climbdown by the party, which has consistently refused to recognise the regime since it seized power last month and cancelled planned elections.

In the past, the front has accused the authorities of "political piracy", but in a statement released yesterday it said that it was ready for dialogue if the authorities "respect the people's choice".

Party choice

Dar es Salaam: A special congress of Tanzania's ruling Revolutionary party endorsed a switch to multiparty system yesterday ending three decades of one-party socialism. A formal vote is expected to allow opposition parties by April. (Reuters)

'Plot' bizarre

Rome: A papal spokesman described as "bizarre" a Time magazine report that the Pope and President Reagan agreed to a secret campaign to hasten the end of communist Eastern Europe. However, the Pope was a known champion of Solidarity. (AP)

Tyson petition

Indianapolis: A group of pastors from the Missionary Baptist Ministers' Alliance said that it had gathered 10,000 signatures on a petition seeking a suspended sentence for Mike Tyson, the heavyweight boxer, for his rape conviction. (AP)

Abidjan arrest

Abidjan: Laurent Gbagbo, the Ivory Coast's main opposition leader, who heads the Ivorian Popular Front, was among those arrested after an anti-government protest here turned into a riot. Demonstrators damaged shops and vehicles. (Reuters)

Weapons plea

Delhi: Kuwait has asked India to help it rebuild its defence forces in an attempt to cut dependence on Western powers. The Pioneer newspaper said Kuwait had asked about the purchase of tanks, missiles, artillery and personnel equipment. (AFP)

Fleet attraction

Wellington: An American naval fleet deliberately sunk in the lagoon of Bikini atoll during atomic tests in 1946 could become a tourist attraction. The Pacific Marshall Islands are considering developing diving tourism, an archaeologist said. (AFP)

Up in the air

Amsterdam: The Dutch aircraft maker, Fokker, has declined to confirm reports that it will deliver up to three Fokker 50s to Taiwan, citing confidentiality, but it denied reports that the planes might be used for military purposes. (Reuters)

Black cheers and white insults spice last-act poll

South Africa's final all-white election will underline Afrikaner feeling about a constitutional referendum, writes Gavin Bell from Potchefstroom

ON A balmy evening at a rugby stadium in the western Transvaal, a lone black man cheered President de Klerk as he described his vision of multiracial harmony in the "new" South Africa.

Nearby, a group of burly white men in khaki uniforms heckled Mr de Klerk raucously. The majority of the white audience was subdued, thoughtfully considering the import of his words.

The scene, on the eve of an important by-election, said much about the mood of South Africa, a kaleidoscope of hope, anger, and anxiety. The election today will indicate which emotion is prevalent among Afrikaners, and whether they are likely to veto constitutional

reforms in a promised referendum. In itself, the Potchefstroom poll is of little significance, since the days of the white-dominated parliament are numbered. However both the ruling National party and the far-right Conservative party regard it as a test of white opinion which will have a crucial bearing on the reform process.

Victory for the Nationalists will reassure them of support for sharing power with the black majority. If

the Conservatives win, they will claim the government has no mandate for reform and will demand a return to apartheid.

The seat fell vacant last year with the death of Louis Grange, the Speaker of parliament, who held it for the Nationalists for a quarter of a century. An urban constituency, Potchefstroom has a classic Afrikaner profile of soldiers, academics, students, factory workers and miners.

Mr de Grange increased

his majority in 1989 to 1,538, but a survey of special early voting indicates the result will be close. Symbolism and sentiment have brought the heavy artillery of the National party to bear on the campaign, with no fewer than 10 cabinet members making personal appearances along with Mr de Klerk. The town's university is the alma mater of both the president and the Nationalist candidate, Theuns Kruger, a local estate agent.

Ferdinand Hartzenburg, the Conservative deputy leader, has been firing emotive broadsides in support of Andries Beyers, the party's candidate and national secretary. "You have to choose between nationalism, free-

dom and self-determination, and an irresponsible government led by the African National Congress and the Communist party," he told a rally this week.

Mr Kruger says he is confident of holding the constituency. "This will show that the Afrikaner is prepared to move fearlessly into the future. My appeal to voters is to prove this convincingly."

By-elections generally favour the opposition, and what may prove to be South Africa's last all-white election could not have come at a worse time for the government. A severe drought, recession, soaring crime, constitutional uncertainty all count against it. An incipient civil war between

supporters of the ANC and the Inkatha Freedom party, which continues to ravage black townships in the Transvaal and Natal, is undermining confidence in the Nationalists' ability to effect a smooth transition to multiracial government.

It has also, perhaps decisively for the Potchefstroom election, fuelled Afrikaner fears of black majority rule.

● **Family victims:** Six members of one family were killed when their van was ambushed in Natal, and four men were shot and flung from a train, in a night of violence in South Africa, police said yesterday. An 11th person, a man, was stoned to death in the Meadowlands area of Soweto.

Fate of Israeli airman Arad 'killed as Moussawi is buried'

FROM ALI JABER IN BEIRUT

AS HEZBOLLAH was announcing the election of another hardliner to succeed Sheikh Abbas Moussawi, its assassinated secretary-general, it was reported in Beirut that Ron Arad, the Israeli air force navigator, had been killed by his Muslim fundamentalist captors after six years' captivity in Lebanon.

An anonymous caller on behalf of "the Cells to Defend the Oppressed and Disinherited in the World" said that Arad was killed in vengeance for the blood of "the master of martyrs". Sheikh Moussawi was killed with his wife and son, aged six, when an Israeli helicopter attacked his motorcade in southern Lebanon on Sunday. The caller told the radio the "execution was carried out at the same moment

as Moussawi's body was being laid in its last resting place" in his home village, Nabichit, in east Lebanon.

On Monday, a caller on behalf of the same group urged those holding Arad and other Israeli prisoners to kill them. Arad, a navigator, was captured in October 1986 when his aircraft was shot down over Sidon, 22 miles south of Beirut, during an air raid on Palestinian refugee camps around the port city.

He was believed to have been the only prisoner among six Israeli servicemen captured by Hezbollah on various occasions since 1982, to be still alive. His release had been at the centre of a general Middle East exchange of prisoners that the United Nations launched late last year as part of its efforts to secure the release of foreign hostages held in Lebanon.

The election of Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah was announced during the jubiliant burial ceremony of his predecessor near the ancient city of Baalbek, 52 miles east of Beirut. Tens of thousands of breast-beating Shias walked behind the three coffins of the Moussawi family on their journey to Nabichit.

Sheikh Muhammad Hussein Fadlallah, Hezbollah's mentor, and an Iranian delegation led by Ayatollah Jannati, personal envoy of Sheikh Ali Khamenei, Iran's supreme leader, led the procession. Guerrilla leaders such as Ahmed Gibril, of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — General Command, and Walid Khalid, the Abu Nidal representative in Lebanon, were among the mourners.

When accepting his appointment as head of Hezbollah, Sheikh Nasrallah said that he would continue the party's policy of fighting Israel until the finish. "The language of war will remain between us," he said. "You (Israelis) have no place among us; fire and iron will always remain on the borders that separate our quarters."

Meanwhile, rockets continued to fly between Lebanon and Israel from both sides of the border for a second day. At least ten people were wounded and thousands fled their homes in southern Lebanon. Fleeing residents said helicopter gunships had attacked the villages of Jibchit and Zawtar al-Gharbiyeh in central south Lebanon, wounding four people. Six were said to have been killed in Israeli artillery shelling of Nabatiyeh and surrounding villages south of Beirut. By nightfall yesterday, more than 75 Katyusha rockets had been fired at Israel from positions manned by Muslim guerrillas on the edge of Israel's security zone in south Lebanon. Some of the rockets struck Shia villages inside the zone, but others landed in northern Israel.

Palestinians decide, page 1



Arad: held since 1986

Jordan to vote on going dry

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

THE Jordanian parliament casts a crucial vote today to decide whether to impose a total ban on the sale, purchase, distribution, import and manufacture of alcohol.

The campaign to turn the Hashemite kingdom dry — deeply resented by King Husain — is the most dramatic attempt by Muslim fundamentalists to transform the traditionally tolerant country into one run along Iranian-style Islamic lines.

Political observers here said the outcome of the vote was uncertain as fundamentalists formed the largest single bloc in the 80-seat lower house of parliament, but they did not, without securing allies, have the overall majority necessary.

After securing sweeping gains in the 1989 general election, one of the freest stages in the Arab world, the fundamentalists succeeded last year in forcing a ban on alcohol at all official ceremonies. The two bills proposing the across-the-board ban have already won a 13-2 majority in the legal committee.

Fares Nabulsi, one of the only two MPs who oppose the move, said: "This is a violation of the rights of privacy of individuals in the country."

Frenzied fans put block on the Kids

The American rock group, New Kids on the Block, left Seoul yesterday after a concert had their teenage fans in an uproar and their elders screaming. Frenzied fans mobbed the group throughout their visit: about 50 were hurt when fans stormed the stage during the concert. The performance had to be interrupted for three-and-a-half hours.

Benjamin Rubin, aged 74, who snipped the top off a common sewing needle to create the forked vaccination needle that helped to eradicate smallpox, is to join Thomas Edison and Alexander Graham Bell at the American national inventors' hall of fame.

Vanilla Ice's film, *Cool As Ice*, scooped seven Golden Raspberry Awards nominations and Sean Young got two for playing twins badly as Hollywood prepared to announce the worst of 1991. Young was nominated as worst actress in *Kiss Before Dying* as the twin who survives and for worst supporting actress as the twin killed in the first reel.

Bruce Willis' *Hudson Hawk* and Dan Aykroyd's *Nothing But Trouble* re-

ceived six nominations for the Oscar-spoofing Razzie trophy, a gold-painted raspberry valued at £1.

Competing with Young for the worst actress award are Madonna, for *Truth or Dare*, Kim Basinger for *The Morning After*, Sally Field for *Not Without My Daughter*, and Demi Moore for *The Butcher's Wife* and *Nothing But Trouble*.

Benny Hill has been ordered by doctors to lose almost two stone. Leaving the Cromwell hospital in London after a minor heart attack, the comedian pined his large stomach and said: "The main advice is to get rid of that."

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit Guyana, Britain's only former colony in South America, next month. He will visit a huge wildlife preserve in his capacity as international president of the World Wide Fund for Nature.

John Anthony Pople, a British-born professor at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh and a renowned student of molecular structure theory, has won this year's \$100,000 (£56,000) Wolf chemistry prize.

Tripoli parades Pan Am suspects

BY JOHN PHILLIPS IN TRIPOLI AND DAVID WATTS

TWO Libyans accused of the Pan Am bombing over Lockerbie in December 1988 were shown to the world's press yesterday in apparent good health — despite reports of their deaths — as the judge leading Tripoli's investigation defiantly excluded their extradition to the United States or Britain.

The British government promptly renewed its demand that Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah be extradited, and rejected the judge's contention that he had not been presented with sufficient evidence on which to act. Egypt last night also called for the two men to be put on trial.

The two men were hustled into the sandstone Supreme Court on the seafloor at the Libyan capital flanked by guards carrying automatic rifles. Judge Ahmad al-Tajer al-Zawi, who is heading Lib-



Question time: guards escort Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi, one of the Lockerbie suspects, into the Supreme Court to meet the press

ya's investigation of the bombing of Flight 103, asked them if they had anything to say. Mr Basset replied in English: "Just to say we are not guilty."

Stephen Mitchell, a British solicitor defending Mr al-Megrahi and Mr Fhimah,

parted them both on the shoulder reassuringly at the end of the photo opportunity and were escorted out of the court room. A Libyan information ministry official said: "They want to show they have not been killed."

Judge al-Zawi said he had

not received a reply to requests to the Scottish Lord Advocate and a state prosecutor in Colombia, New York, for official documents detailing evidence that the Libyans caused the 270 deaths. The Foreign Office said last night that the Libyans had been

given detailed warrants and specifics of the charges consistent with those which would be presented to a country with which Britain had an extradition treaty.

The judge said the two men were held under partial surveillance at their homes.

Their passports had been confiscated. But they have not been charged under Libyan law. The judge said only a political decision could lead to them handed over to America or Britain since Libya has no extradition treaty with London or Washington.

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Royalty on trial

The Queen faces a republican backlash, says Alan Hamilton

Australians cheered their head of state when she arrived in Sydney with the Duke of Edinburgh yesterday on a seven-day visit. As Malcolm Turnbull, lawyer in the *Spycatcher* case and a leading light in his nation's recently reactivated republican movement, observed on the radio: Australians cheer when Madonna turns up, but it doesn't mean they want her as their queen.

All Australians, it is said, are republicans when drunk, which should promise fertile ground for the antipodean anti-monarchist movement. It is highly improbable that there was any love lost between the original settlers and King George III, given that he was ultimately responsible for their unwanted assisted passage to Botany Bay.

Nor is there much logic in a nation with such a strong identity of its own, whose economic orbit is no longer the Empire but the Pacific rim, retaining as its titular figurehead a pommy granny who has managed 12 visits during her 40-year reign and still lives most of her life on the other side of the world. A group of Australian intellectuals led by the author Thomas Keneally is agitating for the severing of the last apron-string, with the aim of achieving a republic by 2001, the centenary of the creation of the Commonwealth out of Australia's previously independent colonial states.

Monarchy v republicanism is not, however, a major item on the Australian political agenda. What exercises the Australian mind first and foremost are the perennial and burning matters of beer and beach, followed at some remove by the parous state of the national economy. They have, in some ways, a healthier attitude to the monarch than we do, with our media's obsession with her family.

Questions about the Queen's Australian future are raised partly by considerable demographic change in the country, as British immigration has given way to an influx from southern Europe and Asia. But Anglo-Celts are still in a majority, and the most recent opinion polls suggest that the pro-monarchists still have the upper hand, although by a straining margin.

Anyone wishing to become a full Australian citizen still has to swear allegiance to Elizabeth II. Those residents of Irish descent who would rather die than tow-row to the British crown appear, on anecdotal evidence at least, to be balanced by a number of Chinese immigrants who consider her rather a good idea.

The monarchy is the last link between the two countries. Britain has even grudgingly agreed to let Australia keep the original document of the 1901 Commonwealth Act, which was lent for a temporary exhibition. Since the demise of that ardent pro-monarchist and sometime eccentric premier of Queensland, Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, Australia no longer even nominates its great and good for the new year and birthday honours lists.

The Queen's record of hanging on to her monarchies is, however, excellent. Of the 16 Commonwealth nations (apart from the UK) which on breaking the colonial shackles chose to keep her as head of state, only Fiji has since cast her adrift, and that because of internal politics in which she had no part.

Monarchy's strongest appeal, certainly in this country, is among the lower-middle and working classes rather than the intellectuals. The Queen seems secure in Australia yet while, it is, after all, a nation almost entirely of suburbs, with a mentality happy enough to let the monarch-republican argument drift for the time being. Dame Edna is a caricature, not an out-and-out lie.

Conor Cruise O'Brien on why a rapist walks free while his victim is prevented from having an abortion

Ireland's cruel hypocrisy

Horror and shame at the monstrousness of a 14-year-old girl, pregnant as a result of rape, being prevented from leaving the country for an abortion is sweeping the Republic of Ireland.

You may well ask: why so? Was it not the people of the Republic who voted in the 1983 abortion referendum which resulted in Article 8 of the constitution? It was indeed. With 53.7 per cent of the electorate voting, two thirds voted in favour of the anti-abortion amendment.

The amended Article reads: "The State acknowledges the right to life of the unborn and with due regard to the equal right to life of the mother, guarantees in its laws to respect, and as far as practicable by its laws to defend and vindicate that right."

During the public debate which preceded the referendum, opponents of the amendment, such as myself, argued that it could result in pregnancy tests at ports and airports and the turning back of the pregnant. This was denied by the amendment's sponsors in a widely-circulated leaflet. But this week the Article

has been interpreted and executed in just such a manner.

It is worth considering first the political context which gave us the fatal Amendment, and the political context that is necessary to get us — and especially that girl — out of its clutches. The early 1980s was a time of particularly intense and close competition between Charles Haughey and Garret Fitzgerald.

Dr Fitzgerald was then engaged on what he called a "constitutional crusade" for liberalisation, which in practice meant taking the prohibition on divorce out of the constitution. Mr Haughey opposed that, and then went one better by proposing the insertion of the prohibition of abortion into the constitution. Dr Fitzgerald backed away, presumably believing that it would be politically suicidal to oppose the Catholic Church simultaneously on both divorce and abortion. Thus both parties, together with

the Church, became committed to the amendment, and so its ratification became inevitable.

Probably none of the politicians who took this up and none of those who voted for it envisaged the present outcome. Although abortion — unlike contraception — had been illegal under laws inherited from the United Kingdom since the foundation of the Irish State, the laws as they existed until 1983 had never been interpreted in such a way as to prevent pregnant women going to Liverpool to get an abortion.

But the object of the Amendment's sponsors was conservative, not innovative. It was to freeze the existing laws, making it impossible for the legislature to change them or the courts to interpret them in a sense permitting abortion.

This wish arose from the alarm aroused in *bien-pensant* circles by the legalising of the distribution and sale of contraceptives in

1979 and by the increasing numbers of Irish Catholic married couples who were defying, or ignoring, the teaching of their church on contraception. (Catholic families are now no larger than anyone else's.) Thus, paradoxically, the anti-abortion Article in the Irish Constitution is a direct result not of the strength of the Roman Catholic Church, but of the weakening of its authority.

The referendum was — for all but a small minority — an exercise in hypocrisy. Abortion would be made totally illegal, but could still be obtained, when necessary, out of sight, in Britain. This week that loophole was blocked. Our hypocrisy has come unstuck.

The question now preoccupying the country is how to unblock that loophole? The question is most urgent for the new government, headed by Albert Reynolds. The present attorney-general, Harry Whelehan, is one of the

few officers left from Mr Haughey's team. In applying for the fatal injunction, he acted on his own initiative, without consulting the government. Mr Reynolds must now be wishing he had dropped Mr Whelehan, for his administration is rather more liberal and less cynical than its predecessor.

In particular the minister for health, Dr John O'Connell, is an advanced liberal: a real fire-eater by Irish standards. In a statement made after his appointment, he acknowledged that he did not belong to any "institutional Church". (This makes him only the second member of the Dail to make such an avowal. The first was myself, in 1969.)

I believe Mr Reynolds will have to find a new attorney-general. He needs one who will advise him how to unblock that loophole, not one who tells him there is no loophole available. The best way forward would be to pass a

constitutional amendment providing that nothing in the present constitution shall be interpreted as curtailing the citizen's freedom of movement, including the freedom to leave the jurisdiction.

Such an amendment would go through the Dail without opposition, and would be enacted by a large majority in a referendum. It would leave the working of Article 8 as it stands, but would again open the loophole. This would be hypocritical, but not cruel, which is how the electorate wants it to be.

An amendment along these lines may well be the outcome of the urgent talks on the matter to which Mr Reynolds yesterday invited the leaders of the opposition.

The changes, whatever shape they may take, will probably come too late to help the present victim whose terrible predicament has precipitated them. Oddly, no charges have yet been made against the alleged rapist, whose identity is known. Meanwhile he is free to leave the country. Our constitution does not limit the freedom of movement of rapists: only that of their victims.

An island race looks abroad

Voters have on offer sharply differing foreign policies, argues Charles Powell

Traditionally foreign affairs do not play much of a part in general elections. Perhaps they ought to this time. After all, the world political landscape has changed as much in the last year or two as in the preceding forty.

We are once again in an age of shifting alliances, dissolving empires, new nationalisms, in which Talleyrand or Franz Joseph would have felt at home. The rhetorical devices which have larded political speeches for the past few decades — the Cold War, the Iron Curtain, the evil empire, even the new world order — are beginning to sound as dated as *ITMA* or *Take It From Here*.

While voters will inevitably be concentrating on domestic questions, they ought also to ask which party will be able to secure the maximum influence for Britain in shaping this new world. The issues are straightforward and come down to four or five simple propositions on which the parties can be judged.

The first and most basic is that the fundamentals for a successful foreign policy are a strong economy and strong defence. These were the twin pillars that supported Mrs Thatcher's iron resolve through most of the 1980s, enabling Britain to exercise influence quite disproportionate to its economic weight.

So the judgment about which party will make the best use of restoring the economy is not just a domestic issue: it will determine how strong we are abroad. The opinion polls suggest that however great our current difficulties, people think this government's policies are more likely to lead to recovery than Labour's.

Defence is no less important. A peace dividend is fine so long as there is peace. But will there be?

The main military threat to our security is no longer a hostile Communist superpower, but the recent changes bring risks of their own: of localised conflicts, of surreptitious nuclear weapons programmes carried on by unstable and unscrupulous governments, of a sudden reversal of the present benign trends within the CIS leading to the re-emergence of a nationalistic and belligerent military power in Russia.

None of these can be ruled out, so we must maintain a prudent level of defence. Prudent not in the Treasury sense of the minimum we can get away with, but prudent in the light of the responsibilities and leadership which Britain has traditionally shown. Here the government has acquitted itself well. It acted early, with the Options for Change defence review, the significance of which lay not so much in the reduction in our forces, but in the firm platform it built to ensure that we retain adequate forces. The government has also rightly and boldly ordered the fourth Trident submarine to guarantee an effective nuclear deterrent.

Labour too has considerably modified its defence policy, recognising the damage done to its prospects by its stance in the last two elections. Labour leaders deserve credit for that. (We can also dismiss the clumsy attempt to imply that Mr Kinnock was some sort of KGB mole and that therefore a Labour government would be unreliable. Soviet diplomats were clearly no more immune than any others from writing self-serving reports.) What is not clear



is whether Labour's conversion is a matter of conviction or merely of clever drafting. The country cannot afford to wait for an emergency to find out.

The third proposition concerns the future of Europe. The Labour party has moved with almost bewildering speed to align itself with the majority of European governments on economic and monetary union, on the social charter and a host of other issues. It will certainly present itself as more European than the Conservatives, although of course the

Liberal Democrats will never knowingly be undersold on Europe. But the question is, may not Labour and the Liberal Democrats find themselves beached? Did Maastricht represent the high-water mark of European integration? Isn't Europe already changing course?

It certainly seems so. German opinion is rebelling against surrender of the mark. With characteristic felicitous timing, Jacques Delors has lobbed the hand-grenade of a substantially increased EC budget. The dam-

our of former Efta members and East European neighbours to enter the EC can no longer be ignored, and enlargement seems destined, quite rightly, to dominate the EC's agenda. And alongside it will be new preoccupations, among them immigration.

If this forecast is correct, Labour politicians will surely find they have over-shot on Europe. The electorate will be looking not at which party can out-do the other in protesting its attachment to Europe, but at which has the best chance of resisting the ambi-

tions of the Commission. Tories took the flak for standing out for Britain's national interests; now they can reasonably expect to reap the electoral benefit.

Fourth, the special relationship with the United States will remain vital in the years ahead. We shall need to work even harder to retain it. There is no doubting the renewed isolationism in large parts of America. The feeling is that with the demise of the Soviet Union, the job has been done, that the remaining boys should come home, and that Europe can at long last look after its own defence. That feeling will be strengthened if Europe seems to be blocking a successful outcome to the Gatt negotiations.

Labour's present leaders have yet to live down some very uncomfortable anti-American utterances, and although the party may now support much of President Bush's foreign policy, it may not be able to conceal a continuing distaste for America's free-enterprise culture. Of more practical importance is whether a Labour government, by giving priority to Europe, would bring us to a low point in relations with America, as a Tory government did under Mr Heath in 1973, the so-called Year of Europe.

The last choice for the electorate concerns the tone of Britain's foreign policy. The Tories have shown that it is possible both to champion human rights without stridency and to pursue Britain's trade interests without abandoning its principles. Has Labour learned this lesson? Or would it opt for sanctimonious self-indulgence over hard-headed calculation of what national interest requires?

These issues are more important for Britain's future than those which will probably be given prominence in the election campaign itself. What clearly emerges is that our foreign policy will not simply go on in much the same way whoever wins the election. There are substantial differences of vision, policy and method between the parties, and thus a real choice. In a period of such uncertainty it is more than usually important to get it right.

Sir Charles Powell was private secretary to Mrs Thatcher.



...and moreover ALAN COREN

Last Friday afternoon, something horrible happened to Greta, and something wonderful happened to me. It was the same thing. The thing was that Greta dropped her rifle. Then the snow fell on Greta. And then, as Greta began slowly to disappear under the snow, a spectator laughed. Then all the spectators laughed.

I don't know if you're acquainted with the *Women's Biathlon* Relay. It is an activity which, if the world were sane, would be the maximum penalty for some unspeakable crime. Since the world is otherwise, it is merely an imponderable Alpine game in which teams of young girls with planks on their feet assemble — in weather you wouldn't send a dog out in — not at the top of a snow-covered hill, which might at least make a little sense, but at the bottom. Each is then given a rifle.

After that, they all stand in a storm of horizontal snow for a bit, until a dropped flag sends the first member of each team struggling splay-footed up the hill, whereupon she unslings her rifle and looses off five rounds rapid at a target rendered all but invisible by the malicious snow-balls. This done, she hurls herself back to the starting-line and hands over to the next member of her team, who trudges off through the freezing muck to do it all over again.

As a spectator sport, it has nothing women lurch out of the gloom, fire a gun, and lurch back in. In truth, they do not look as

though they are engaged in a sport at all, they look as they are doing a singularly dreary and dangerous job. You might as well make examining an Olympic event. But worst of all is that this activity, which even when performed successfully is pointless to watch, becomes, when it is performed unsuccessfully, heartbreaking to watch.

Unless, that is, you are a typical Alpine audience. If you are a typical Alpine audience, you laugh until your chin bristles with lachrymal icicles. You gasp until your head vanishes into its own garlic cumulus. Which is why poor Greta's Friday fiasco was so horrible for her. Why it was so wonderful for me was that it finally enabled me, after 38 years, to give up my Alpine career.

In 1954, I went skiing for the first time, on a school party to Beatenberg in the Bernese Oberland. I should have preferred it to have been in the Bernese Unterland, because it all looked a bit steep for a suburban adolescent with so great a terror of public humiliation that the sheer force of his rising blushes often made his neck-boils burst, but there wasn't one, so I resolved to make the best of a bad job. I did not realise how bad a job could be until I appeared for maiden duty on the nursery slopes.

I do not blame my mother, since I myself knew as little as she about Alpine matters, ie, we knew that alps are cold and wet. My mother's answer to this was

a set of borrowed oilskins and a sou'wester. They were yellow. I tried them on in London and I looked like a lifeboatman. But that was all right. There was nothing to say that skiers could not look like lifeboatmen, nor indeed that lifeboatmen did not ski.

There was, that is, nothing in London to say it. In Beatenberg, that first morning, there was everything to say it. To shriek it. To fall down and roll in the snow howling in a thousand bastards in snuggly custom-built ski-wear saw this yellow object stumbling around, flapping, and their gasbags blew. Under the sou'wester, boils went bang.

Yet I endured. (Slapdash typesetters might have expressed that as "Yet endured", and they would not have been far wrong to this day, bastards are telling their grandchildren of the time back in 1954 when they spotted the Abominable Lifeboatman staggering about beneath the Jungfrau.) I endured for two more weeks, and swore that one day I would return to the slopes, trained and clad to the highest standard the Walter Mitty Ski School could provide, and show the bastards.

I never did, but I never stopped dreaming I would. Until last Friday. Last Friday, Greta released me from that thrall. She showed me that even if you were an Olympian, the bastards would still laugh at you, and who needs that?

I feel as if a great weight has been lifted from my shoulders. To say nothing of my neck.

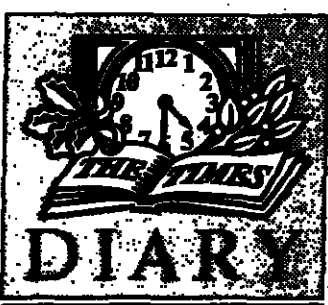
Greene on the screen

THE FIRST Graham Greene screenplay in over 40 years is about to go into production. The script for *A Burnt-Out Case*, which will star Richard Harris and Gen Kingsley, was completed by Greene and the writer Christopher Neame only weeks before Greene's death in April last year.

Neame, who produced *Monsieur Quixote*, the most recent film of a Greene novel, spent several months commuting to the novelist's home in the south of France to finish the collaboration. Filming will begin in South Africa in April. Michael Wilson, the executive producer, says: "Greene was very enthusiastic. *A Burnt-Out Case* was one of the books that he dearly loved, and he made cuts and offered his own suggestions to improve the script which Christopher took on board. He was very excited about the project." Greene's work was so extensive that all royalties from the screenplay will go to the author's estate.

Although most of his books have been made into films, Greene fans are especially excited about *A Burnt-Out Case* because the screenplay was the first Greene himself had been involved in since *The Third Man* in 1949. The film will be directed by Christopher Neame's father, Ronald, who made *Brief Encounter*.

The South African location has raised eyebrows, but Michael Wilson says: "It has the right geography, the right infrastructure, and we will use black actors. Greene knew it would have to be done there. It is not controversial." Equity may disagree. A spokesman says: "We still advise members not to work in South Africa, although we do not have any disciplinary measures."



● Could Britain's lack of medals at the Winter Olympics be due to an outbreak of dysentery? Organisers at the Olympic village feared the worst when they discovered that on average six large packs of lavatory paper were being used by each apartment every day. Alas for British pride, an official enquiry has found the British team to be in regular health. They are using the paper to apply coatings of wax to their skis.

Latest whisper

ALTHOUGH St Paul's has not yet invited the moneylenders into the temple, they are certainly waiting at the great west door of Wren's masterpiece. The cathedral has announced it is looking for a City partner.

St Paul's first embraced market forces last year, when it called in Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte and introduced an admission charge. This emboldened, cathedral officials now plan an upmarket shop and a restaurant in the crypt.

"When you are the stewards of a national monument there are responsibilities to the public. If you charge to come in, it creates its own problems. It is a vicious circle. They expect amenities, and we need the help of a City partner to fund it," says the Archdeacon of London, the Venerable George

Cassidy. "We never felt happy trading on the cathedral floor, and now the shop has grown from a table to a higgledy-piggledy mess. It must be moved."

When the cathedral introduced charges last year for the first time since 1851, it was heading for a £1.1 million deficit, he says. The deficit has now almost been cleared, with an income from admission charges in the first months of £600,000. But far from abolishing the charges, the cathedral has just announced a further increase — from £2 per head to £2.50.



Marilyn martyred

AFTER Oliver Stone's *JFK*, America is preparing for a new controversy over its second most famous icon and sometime Kennedy girl, Marilyn Monroe. A drama documentary to be shown on American TV later this month will recreate the last hours of Monroe's life and dispute the verdict that she died alone from a drugs overdose. The film, for the television series *Hard Copy*, was shot in the room where Monroe was found dead, and is openly inspired by Stone's movie. *JFK* showed how you can revisit historical events in an

investigative manner and dress them up like a movie," says the programme's producer, Brennan.

The reconstruction of her death, which is being syndicated by Paramount, has provoked controversy in American television, which is already riven by a debate on the merits of dramatised "news". The programme will conclude that Monroe was murdered in a plot masterminded by the Mafia boss Sam Giancana — a theory also endorsed in a new book by Giancana's brother, Chuck.

Hidden agenda

PADDY ASHDOWN will bare his soul this weekend in a television interview about sex. The programme, which was made just days before details emerged of his extra-marital affair, now makes poignant viewing. Unaware of the storm about to break around him, Ashdown complains about the unhealthy attention paid to politicians' private lives. "The result is that we will have mediocre people — who may be perfectly safe, but not necessarily good — running the country."

Ashdown recorded the interview for Channel 4's *Starchamber* on 24 January — when he knew that his solicitors had been burgled, but before he knew that a tabloid newspaper was proposing to expose him. "The Commons is a monstrousity... it's a place that destroys MPs' health and quite often destroys their marriages," he says. "But I have to confess I find Felicity Kendal extraordinarily sexy."

● Malcolm Rifkind put his love of the railways to the test yesterday when he proudly took the controls of a Hornby model in an exhibition at the Commons. The transport secretary crashed the train within seconds. Even John Prescott was, for once, left speechless.



HARD CASE OF BAD LAW

The Irish High Court's injunction banning an abortion on a 14-year-old girl demonstrates with devastating clarity the foolishness of the anti-abortion referendum in Ireland nine years ago. Abortion was already a criminal offence in Ireland. But that was not enough for anti-abortion campaigners. They wanted to enshrine opposition to abortion as a fundamental principle of the Irish state by writing it into the constitution.

This is why on Monday the Irish High Court was able to make an order preventing an Irish citizen having an abortion even while outside the jurisdiction of the Irish state. Britain, whose more relaxed law makes Ireland's abortion safety valve, sees an estimated 4,000 abortions on Irish women a year. As a result of this week's case, all such women could in future be held virtual prisoners in their own country by court injunctions.

To its credit, Irish public opinion has been brought up short. Politicians and newspapers are dismayed and embarrassed. Few claim to have known that the constitutional amendment could have such a wide consequence, although some opponents of the amendment said so at the time. Even the judge making the order referred to "painful and distressing events, resulting in tragedy and a great measure of human suffering".

The facts of the case could hardly have been more shocking. The girl was pregnant as a result of rape by a friend of her father, who had been sexually molesting her over a period of a year. The reporting of the rape to the police began a chain of events which led to the Irish Attorney General, Harry Whelehan, seeking an injunction to stop an intended abortion in Britain. The girl is now said to be suicidal. If ever there was a time when a law officer should have put his telescope to the wrong eye, this was surely it.

This is not to ask Mr Whelehan to concede the pro-abortion case, that the deliberate destruction of a foetus is a moral choice to be made by the mother alone. British and Irish abortion laws both accept that the state has

some responsibility for the life of the foetus. British law strikes a balance between the claim of the foetus and the claim of the mother — nowadays tending to favour the mother — according to the principle of the lesser of two evils. Irish law reflects the teaching of the Catholic Church that some human actions, abortion included, are absolutely wrong and can never be justified as the lesser evil.

Moral guidance is for individual conscience; legal coercion is for the state. It is a political rather than a moral decision of the majority of Irish electors to align Irish criminal and constitutional law with the absolutist teaching of their church. Catholicism itself does not require that alignment, as Irish bishops occasionally if somewhat reluctantly admit. The Catholic bishops of England, Wales and Scotland have been clearer. While campaigning for less abortion, they deliberately do not campaign for a legal ban on all abortion.

In framing laws, legislators need to satisfy conditions which do not have to be met by religious bodies in formulating their moral teaching. On matters touching morality, a law must make room for conscientious dissent, even when that dissent extends to what anti-abortionists consider a matter of life and death. A law must not be so harsh as to bring itself into disrepute and thus jeopardise general consent to its obedience. And a law must not be so vague and general that judges may extend it with unimagined consequences. By all these tests the British "lesser of two evils" approach makes for a more realistic and consensual abortion law.

All citizens are at liberty to apply religious absolutes to themselves. They should not insist on coercing others into doing likewise. That is the mistake for which one young Irish girl is expected to pay a high price. But the wave of sympathy for her in Ireland may bring nearer the desirable day when that country's constitution ceases to impose one particular set of political and religious assumptions on all its citizens.

SICKER MAN OF EUROPE

Germans do not take the same grim pleasure as Britons and Americans in classifying their economic misfortunes, but the figures speak for themselves. Germany is in a full-fledged recession, although the government and the Bundesbank have yet to make an official admission. As the Bundesbank acknowledged on Monday, Germany's gross national product has declined at an annual rate of 2 per cent for three quarters running. The indicators suggest that output is continuing to fall in the present quarter too.

In the past two months, the German mark has become one of the world's weakest currencies. Provisionally for the British, it has fallen even against the pound. Yesterday so much capital fled Germany that the mark had to be defended by the Bank of Italy, no less. All this has happened despite the business opportunities offered by German reunification and in direct contradiction of the widely predicted euphoria about the completion of the Single European Market after 1992. Few European politicians are yet aware of Germany's fall from economic grace. Since Britain entered the German-dominated exchange-rate mechanism, progressive thinkers in all the main political parties have dreamt of foisting the German model on every British institution and social arrangement: central banking, collective pay bargaining, home ownership, even the voting system.

Germany's would-be emulators have missed the boat. The model started to grind its gears in the mid-1970s. By the early 1980s, Germany was being left out of the boom in employment creation and business formation then being seen in America and Britain. And criticism began to be heard even within Germany about monopolistic trade unions, over-protective social legislation, intrusive government regulation and pervasive industrial subsidies. Indeed, during the heyday of market economics in the 1980s, the German model was more usually described as a disease, Eurosclerosis.

NAMING THE UNMENTIONABLE

In the 19th century British parliamentarians thought little of using their position to enrich themselves. Now some are trying to diminish the amount by which they impoverish themselves. Those Tory members who interrogated David Coleridge, chairman of Lloyd's, on Monday may well have been acting selflessly in the interests of their constituents. And that some of them personally stand to lose many thousands of pounds in the insurance market may have had no bearing on their aggressive questioning.

But not many Lloyd's names win a private audience with the chairman, still less an opportunity to whinge loudly without the risk of being bundled out of his room. In the words of one (admittedly Labour) witness at Monday's meeting, the occasion was used by a minority of MPs for what he indelicately called "the pursuit of private vendettas".

The wailing of Lloyd's names over the past year would drown the mourners at an Indian funeral. Some have been forced to sell their country homes or even (very few) remove their children from private schools. The secretary who was given membership of Lloyd's as a leaving present from her boss does raise a tear of sympathy. But for most of the 1970s and 1980s, Lloyd's members made a lot of money for no work. Their money worked twice over: once at Lloyd's and again by being invested elsewhere.

Tory MPs who are also Lloyd's names have resorted to leaking their dissatisfaction at what they call "structural rotteness" at Lloyd's to the benches opposite. All of a sudden, the richest Conservatives are in

Then at the end of the decade, the Germans seemed to have the last laugh. After languishing with almost no growth from 1980 to 1987, the German economy suddenly sprang to life and enjoyed three years of prosperity. Moans of structural rigidity and industrial feather-bedding were forgotten. With the American and British economies veering towards recession, a fashion-conscious economic establishment forgot Eurosclerosis and waxed lyrical once more on a return of the German economic miracle of the 1950s, a final triumph of Ludwig Erhard's finely balanced "social market" economics over the brutality of Anglo-Saxon laissez-faire.

The truth was simpler and less portentous. Germany's prosperity from 1988 to 1991 was due to a series of large tax cuts and lavish deficit spending to finance unification. That country's economic policy in the late 1980s was similar to Ronald Reagan's in 1982 and Nigel Lawson's in 1983. The result was comparable, though less intense. Inflation accelerated and the current account moved from its traditional huge surplus to a deficit for the first time in ten years. But even at the height of the reunification boom, Germany's economy did not grow as rapidly as Britain's in 1987 and 1988. Neither did its capacity to create new businesses and jobs match Britain's and America's during their supply-side revolutions.

The length and severity of Germany's recession will now depend on whether the Bundesbank and the government can reconcile their monetary and fiscal policies so as to bring down German interest rates and gradually narrow the budget deficit. The omens are not good. The Bundesbank refuses even to admit the economy is in recession, despite the evidence of its own figures. The government seems unwilling to cut subsidies or to pay for reunification with higher taxes. At this rate, it may be years before the rest of Europe can speak of a German economic miracle again.

league with the likes of Dennis Skinner in their wish to see Lloyd's regulated from outside. This most improbable alliance parallels Labour's brief dalliance last year with supporting those (same) Tory MPs who sought to carry forward tax relief on their Lloyd's losses. Even the government realised that this bailing-out of the rich would be politically unacceptable.

Where were all these MPs in 1982? The Lloyd's Act of that year let the market off the regulatory hook that was to restrict the rest of the City later. Admittedly names were not allowed to vote because it was a private bill, but many were happy to lobby in favour of their friends, convincing colleagues that clubby self-regulation was all that was needed. In 1986, when the financial services bill was going through Parliament, why was there not more pressure from names to bring Lloyd's within its scope, as *The Times* among others was urging?

The answer is that the spring tide of money-making at Lloyd's hid the detritus of incompetence that was exposed only when the tide receded. Some ministers were themselves names and Tory MPs were reluctant to question such a neat way of augmenting their parliamentary salaries. Lloyd's membership seemed perfect for that purpose. As a passive investment it did not hinder political advancement since ministers were allowed to stay in the market. Not so perfect are today's prospects. MPs who go bankrupt have to resign their seats. It has been an unedifying chapter in parliamentary history, but nobody in Parliament will say so.

'Shoot to kill' in Ulster and Israel

From the Attorney General for Northern Ireland

Sir, Your leading article today, "Deadly debts", depresses and astounds me. You discuss, and by inference equate, recent killings in South Lebanon by Israeli forces and in Northern Ireland by British forces.

You say: "Neither case is susceptible to the snap moral judgment of those sliding safe in distant armchairs. Both must be subject to the pragmatic test of each act of war: how far will it contribute to eventual peace?" You conclude by saying that killings in Northern Ireland, as well as in South Lebanon, "will be hard to defend as 'a means to an end'".

It would not be merely "hard" to defend a killing as a means to such an end: it would be impossible. I leave aside whether you know what happened in either instance: I certainly do not. But you do a disservice to those steadfastly upholding the rule of law in Northern Ireland by implying that such a defence would ever be put forward, or would be listened to for a moment if it were. No use of force can be justified unless it conforms to the law.

It may be that the key to your article lies in its reference to "Britain" projecting its power into Ulster. Northern Ireland in international, let alone national, law is part of the United Kingdom.

Be that as it may, the inference behind your remark that "the killings in South Lebanon and Coisland cannot be excused as equal and opposite to, for instance, recent IRA outrages or the murder of Israeli soldiers in their beds last Friday" I find sickening. To my knowledge, only you have posited the putting forward of such an argument by anyone.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK MAYHEW,
Attorney General's Chambers,
9 Buckingham Gate, SW1.
February 18.

From Lord Mayhew

Sir, To link the killings in South Lebanon with those in Coisland is to whitewash Israel and insult Britain.

The Israelis have no rights, and no responsibilities for law and order, in South Lebanon: the British have both in Northern Ireland. The Israelis killed defenceless civilians: the British, armed terrorists.

The British government does not send helicopters into the Republic of Ireland to attack and kill unarmed IRA supporters and their families.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER MAYHEW,
House of Lords.
February 18.

From Dr Laurence Kennedy

Sir, One of the terrorists killed at Coisland had, under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, been expelled from Great Britain, but could roam free in the other part of the United Kingdom, Northern Ireland.

This "internal exile" protects the people of England, Scotland and Wales while exposing the long-suffering Northern Irish, currently denied the weapon of internment, to a greater terrorist threat. Perhaps people on "the mainland" should think about this before loftily dismissing internment as draconian. It is sometimes said that internment would be unacceptable to Catholics in Northern Ireland. This incident illustrates the sad reality that if IRA terrorism is to be defeated without internment there will be many more young Catholic (and Protestant) people killed, with all the attendant grief that will bring. Had there been internment, it is quite possible that the families of the four terrorists would not now be mourning their loss.

Your leader today says that in Ulster "a periodic shoot-to-kill incident may be tactically preferable to internment". Whether or not there is internment, the government must be prepared to meet force with appropriate force, as was the case in Coisland. Use of the term "shoot-to-kill" is not only emotive but misleading, in implying that "shoot-to-kill" can be a practicable option for policemen or soldiers confronting armed terrorists. The only realistic options in such a situation surely are to shoot or not to shoot.

Yours faithfully,
LAURENCE KENNEDY
(Prospective parliamentary candidate for North Down (Conservative)),
3 My Lady's Mile,
Holywood, Co Down.
February 18.

Tories and civil rights

From Mr Ian Taylor, MP for Esher (Conservative)

Sir, Anthony Lester's article ("Mandarin Britain", February 12) arguing for a bill of rights is based on a farrago of untenable assertions.

To assert that the government opposes the reforms proposed by Charter 88 is correct. To assert that it is "no friend of constitutional reform" is nonsense. Conservative governments have been responsible for many major constitutional advances, including the most significant of recent decades — membership of the European Community. Conservatives are not opposed to change when there is a proven need for it. What we are not in favour of are half-baked

Yugoslavia and the commitment to a peacekeeping force

From Mr Edward Cowan

Sir, As your defence correspondent rightly indicates ("Yugoslavia and Ulster put army cuts to test", February 14) the government has faced a dilemma over the commitment of troops to a United Nations force in Yugoslavia.

The United Kingdom is a permanent member of the Security Council and currently occupies its presidency. Shortly, it will also take up the presidency of the European Community. In the circumstances it would seem right for the government to show sufficient commitment and support for the enhancement of the United Nations' peacekeeping role within the new world order.

To send only logistic and medical troops at this time to Yugoslavia would be to give the wrong political signal, especially when the United Nations' primary military need in Croatia is for well led and well trained infantry. Britain's infantry is the finest in the world today in the peacekeeping field and should be used in part in Yugoslavia.

During the past month force levels have been raised significantly in Ulster and this has no doubt led to the prospect of a decision to send only supporting troops to Yugoslavia.

The fact that this has happened prior to the reductions in Britain's infantry by over a quarter should surely cause the next government to question the fundamental conclusions reached in the present government's Options for Change defence review.

Why pursue further nuclear weapon development for the RAF at a cost of £2.5 billion when it is clear, in the aftermath of the Soviet Union's collapse and the rise in nationalist tensions, that peacekeeping under the aegis of the United Nations is an infinitely more important task which requires British support through the retention and use of our much admired and

thoroughly professional infantry force for this purpose?

Yours etc.

EDWARD COWAN
(Defence and Military Attaché to Yugoslavia, 1987-90),
36 Pall Mall, SW1.

From the Minister of Information for the Republic of Croatia

Sir, Your February 14 leader ("Peacekeeping perils") demonstrates a misunderstanding of the problems faced by the UN peacekeeping effort in Croatia. You imply that President Tudjman and the Croatian government are increasingly following far-right, quasi-fascist policies and denying protection to the Serb minority in Croatia. The Croats, having "pocketed EC recognition", are described as "seeking to use the UN presence in the captured territories as a cover to extend Croatian control of Serbian towns and villages". And some nationalists even more extreme than the Croatian officialdom are said to be pressuring Dr Tudjman into glorifying the wartime fascist alliance with Germany.

This picture bears little resemblance to the truth. The Croatian parliament has adopted, as an integral part of the Constitution, far-reaching legislation on human and minority rights. To my knowledge it is more comprehensive than any comparable law in Europe. Croatia has expressed readiness further to elaborate it in its practical application if the need should arise.

Croatia has been identified internationally as a victim of unprovoked aggression inflicted by one of the largest armies in Europe. We have "pocketed recognition" to the tune of more than 20,000 dead and wounded, a third of the economy and large parts of the cultural heritage destroyed, and more than a quarter of our territory occupied. We have paid a very high price indeed for insistence on the integrity of Croatia's own borders and do not have to use the UN or anybody else as a cover.

From the outset the question for us, and for Europe, has been whether or not the aggression could be repelled and further escalation of hostilities avoided through a negotiated peace process. President Tudjman has staked everything on the successful outcome of the peace process. His and Croatia's commitment to negotiations is based on the firm understanding with the EC and the US that borders are inviolable and that the rights of minorities will be fully guaranteed.

It is important to remember that the United Nations expects the EC to find a political solution. Croatia does not wish to see the UN effort prejudice what has been the very foundation of the EC peace process. We have never questioned the recommendation of Mr Cyrus Vance (the UN special envoy) that the civil administration should reflect the ethnic composition in these occupied Croatian towns and villages. But we do not think that people who have committed crimes are qualified to be policemen.

This is not just a matter of public decency. Most of the occupied cities, such as Vukovar, Dornik, Novigrad etc., have had absolute or relative Croatian majorities and we cannot expect Croatian refugees to return if their safety is to be ensured by the very same people whose cruelty has made them flee their homes in the first place.

I am sure that President Tudjman, a life-long anti-fascist who, at the age of 19, was one of the first to join the partisan movement, will know how to resist pressures, real or imagined, to glorify the wartime fascist alliance with Germany. I cannot understand your call for "brutal political and economic pressure" on a country that is experiencing the most brutal destruction seen in Europe since the second world war.

Yours etc.
BRANKO SALAJ,
41000 Zagreb, Opatitka 8,
Republic of Croatia.

Staying on at school

From Dr W. D. Halls

Sir, Sir Rhodes Boyson and Mr Robert Dunn (letter, February 11) are mistaken if they believe that Russia and Sweden have technical schools for the whole of secondary education.

Diversification does not begin in Russia until the end of compulsory schooling: in a tripartite system *tekhnikum* and *remeslennyye* ("trade schools") are the less prestigious options to remaining at school. Sweden has a unitary upper secondary school with no less than 22 options — academic, technical and vocational — for the 16-19 age group: there is still a large component of general education in them all, as a common core.

The Swedish "lines", as they are termed, are based on an analysis of the labour market. Representatives of business, industry, the professions and the civil service were invited to say what subjects could most usefully form the curriculum for the upper

secondary level, and courses were drawn up accordingly. They therefore relate broadly to a range of possible future careers.

The strength of the German system, which Boyson and Dunn also mention, lies in the fact that all school-leavers up to the age of 19 must attend a part-time vocational school. As for Japan, employers often prefer to take on young people and train them themselves. Our own youth training scheme and similar projects, if politicians were sufficiently innovative, could develop in similar ways.

In any case, is not the insistence on the economic advantage to society of education being overdone? Education is also for the development of the individual: the 1944 Education Act, it was said at the time, was designed "to procure for children a happier childhood".

Yours faithfully,
W. D. HALLS,
2 Field House Drive, Oxford.
February 12.

Blame for Glencoe

From Sir David Hunt

Sir, Alan Hamilton has got himself into a fine can of Campbell soup. Writing about Glencoe (report, February 14) he says "the Campbells had been prevailed upon to act as agents for the Westminster government". He is misled by current political slogans and the tendency to blame the English for all Scotland's woes.

As these events took place before the Union, he should have written "the Edinburgh government": the massacre was planned, ordered and carried out exclusively by Scotsmen, and I include in that honourific title William III, King of Scotland.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
DAVID HUNT,
Old Place,
Lindfield, Sussex.
February 14.

Protecting workers

From Ms Marlene Winfield

Sir, I welcome the government's intention to protect oil-rig workers from victimisation when they report safety concerns to the Health and Safety Executive (report, February 11). Employees who make anonymous reports are often identifiable and therefore anonymity should not be considered a likely or reliable protection.

The shortcomings of anti-victimisation clauses in race-relations legislation have shown that what constitutes victimisation has to be

precisely defined. Penalties have to be stiff. When protection fails, as it may well do often, compensation should reflect the true value of the sacrifice made to both present and future job prospects: the North Sea is a closed world where blacklisting is easy.

As much oil-rig work is casual, protection must also extend to those on short-term contracts.

Yours faithfully,
MARLENE WINFIELD (Fellow),
Public Interest Research
Centre Ltd.,
PO Box 111, London NW1 8XG.
February 11.

isters may come to regret their "contemptuous rejection of a modern, coherent system that secures real democracy". How can they have rejected what they have not been offered? The fact is, our current constitutional arrangements already allow for real democracy and real rights, not the "paper rights" advocated by constitution-mongers, such as Mr Lester.

Finally, may I be permitted to observe that the most recent British Social Attitudes Survey found that 85 per cent of respondents felt that the rights of the individual are very or fairly well protected in Britain.

Yours faithfully,
IAN TAYLOR,
House of Commons.

Clergy job losses

From Mr and Mrs R. Whitworth

Sir, Durham is not alone in being affected by the bishops' questionable use of the suspension of the right of presentation to clergy freholds on the ground of "rationalisation", prompted by financial expediency.

Making appointments only from within a diocese will inevitably lead to stagnation. How, under such a scenario, could God's call to a minister from, say, the south to a long-term ministry in a northern inner-city parish be answered? And are we to expect no further movements of bishops for the time being?

The parish is the all-important base for the church's ministry: there is plenty of scope for cutting diocesan expenditure without impinging on the deployment of parochial clergy. It is extremely difficult to encourage people to pay tithes when all they can see is a creeping but steady withdrawal from staffing of their parishes. We contribute one tenth of our joint salaries, a not inconsiderable amount, but we will be carefully considering the proportion which is channelled through the Church of England in the light of the decisions the church at large is now taking. We may not be the only ones.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN WHITWORTH,
RUTH WHITWORTH,
57 North Street, Oundle,
Northamptonshire.
February 15.

Wagnerian oversight

From Professor Hans-Hubert Schönlzer

Sir, I must take up the cudgels on behalf of at least one member of the Wagner family (Bernard Levin, February 13), namely Friedelind, daughter of Siegfried Wagner. Levin uses them all the while with some brush, but that is unfair.

Friedelind Wagner had the courage to stand up against her whole Hitler-indoctrinated family and left Germany when she was only 20. In 1938 Furtwängler, then a very unhappy man, went to see her in Paris and asked her: "What do I do now?" She answered: "You are now outside Germany. Do like me and just throw away your return ticket".

Yours faithfully,
HANS-HUBERT SCHÖNLZER,
9 Waldron Mews,
Old Church Street, SW3.

Local disturbance

From Mr Arthur Abeles

Sir, Each night I make up my mind to devote my full attention to the weather report on television.

I put down my newspaper, withdraw from all small chat, listen closely to the description of the struggle between the high pressures and the low, follow the course of wavy lines across the UK and Continent meant to illustrate that confrontation, study swarms of angry little daggers which reflect what the wind is, or will be doing, and finally stare at orange balls partially covered by cloud and often pierced by rain which dot the country.

And then I wonder what it's going to be like in the West End of London on the following day.

Faithfully yours,
ARTHUR ABELES,
3 Durham Place, SW3.

orthcoming marriages

OBITUARIES

ROLAND HARPER

Roland Harper, food psychophysicist, died on January 28 aged 75. He was born on March 23rd, 1916.

ROLAND Harper extended the boundaries of knowledge of the texture and flavour of food. He defined 44 categories of smell which enabled more accurate description to be given so that better flavoured foods could be developed. The work had wide application in the food and drinks industry, not least in brewing where a company producing a particular beer wishes it to have the brand flavour although produced in different locations.

Harper was a psychophysicist. He bridged the two disciplines of psychology and physics. He pursued during his life the psychological impact of physical phenomena. In the food industry that meant the relationship between the chemical composition of the product and its texture and flavour.

Harper graduated at Manchester University, BSc in physics and MSc in psychology, an unusual combination that was to form the basis of his career. His thesis dealt with perception, in his case colour constancy. In 1939 he joined the Meteorological Office, which at that time depended greatly on visual perception. He was



moved to Norwich and in 1943 was mobilised as a flight lieutenant in the RAF as part of the job.

In 1946 he joined the National Institute for Research in Dairying, part of the University of Reading. Harper then moved to the University of Leeds where he joined the department of psychology in 1950. Words to describe what are perceived attributes of food continued to be most important to him and his wife, Anne, helped him to extract all the food-descriptive terms from the 200,000 words of the *Concise Oxford*

Dictionary. After serving as acting head of the department for a year he was appointed senior lecturer. He involved himself in the planning of the BSc in food science inaugurated in Leeds in 1962. After 14 years at Leeds University Harper accepted a principal research fellowship at the Food Research Institute, Norwich. This fixed-term appointment allowed him to collaborate in an extensive analysis of the nature of odour classification, the definition of a comprehensive set of odour qualities and a system of describing them accurately in a way which could be used both by experts and lay people.

While this pioneering work was being carried out the scientific climate changed, frustrating extension of the fellowship. Thus Harper went on to undertake short term appointments in Chile and Greece. When a Leverhulme senior fellowship became available at the University of Reading in 1981 he was again able to take up in his research aspects of his main interest, the measurement of the behaviour which is the expressed response to what is perceived. He also vigorously developed sensory studies and quality evaluation as an important element of all the degree courses offered by the food science department. He was largely responsible for initiating, and then was tutor of, an introductory course for overseas students coming to Reading to read for the MSc in food science.

His expertise was also applied in assignments in Nigeria, Sudan and Uganda. Harper was a founder member of the European Chemoreception Organisation. He was elected a fellow of the British Psychological Society in 1982 and of the Institute of Food Science and Technology in 1972. He also made many substantial contributions to standardisation of sensory methodology in both international standards and in those produced by the American Society for Testing Materials.

Harper published three monographs or books, *Psychological and Psychophysical Studies of Dairying*, *Odour Description and Odour Classification* (with E. C. Bate-Smith and D. G. Land), and *Human Senses in Action*, and almost 100 papers.

In 1987 the University of Reading, jointly with the Society of Chemical Industry, organised a symposium on food acceptability to honour Harper's work. He is survived by his wife, a daughter and two sons.

LEONARD RAVER

Leonard Raver, organist of the New York Philharmonic orchestra and a noted champion of contemporary organ music, died on January 29 aged 65. He was born in Wenatchee, Washington State, on January 8, 1927.

ALTHOUGH he was considered a gifted interpreter of Baroque music, Leonard Raver felt strongly about the need to encourage contemporary composers and built a large repertoire of modern American works in a variety of styles.

"If you keep playing the same pieces over and over," he said in a 1980 interview, "it becomes like a museum. I live in the twentieth century, and I have a responsibility to the future and to the composers of my time."

During the past two decades, after he began per-

forming regularly with the New York Philharmonic, Raver commissioned or gave the premieres of dozens of new works for the organ. Among them were Ned Rorem's *Quaker Reader* and *Organbook*, Daniel Pinkham's *Organ Concerto*, Vincent Persichetti's *Audens Variations*, Gardner Read's *Phantasmagoria* and David Diamond's *Symphony for Organ*.

Raver worked hard to win public support for modern organ music, staging "Organism concerts," in which he mixed new works with Baroque and Romantic scores to show the continuity of the organ repertoire, and included electronic sounds and percussion.

In addition to his concert work, Raver taught at a number of colleges and conservatories, including the Juilliard School and Yale University.

SIR HENRY ROWE

Sir Henry Rowe KCB, QC, parliamentary draftsman and former First Parliamentary Counsel, died on February 13 aged 75. He was born on August 18, 1916.

AS FIRST Parliamentary Counsel Henry Rowe had charge of the office responsible for drafting all government bills other than those relating exclusively to Scotland. He was the first in that post not to have been brought up in an English-speaking environment. Heing Peter Röhr, as he was then known, was born in Ischl, Austria, of a Czech father and an Austrian mother and did not leave Austria for England until 1938.

The testimony to his powers of intellect and command of language is the number of bills of which he had charge during his time as a senior member of the office from 1961 until retirement in 1981. One of his first major acts, the Licensing Act 1961, remains — in consolidated form — the basis of the ability of most restaurants today to serve an alcoholic drink with a meal. The Rent Act 1965 introduced the system of regulated tenancies which is still the basis of most private letting. From 1971 to 1976 Rowe took on the ultimate intellectual challenge — the drafting of the annual Finance Bill. The Scottish and Welsh devolution acts of 1978 were Rowe's. His last tour de force was the Housing Act 1980 which completely changed the basis on which local authority tenants rent their homes and introduced "the right to buy."

In 1935 Röhr had become a student in Vienna University but in 1938 he left Austria and came to England where he enrolled as an undergraduate at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, to read English law. Again his studies were interrupted: this time by internment at the outbreak of war.

Lord Dulverton, CBE, TD, 2nd Baron, a former director of the Imperial Tobacco company, died on February 17 aged 76. He was born on December 19, 1915.

ALTHOUGH he was the senior member of the Wills tobacco family and had served for 18 years on the board of the company, the second Lord Dulverton was not, like his father and grandfather before him, ever at the helm of the tobacco business. Rather he was known as a staunch and knowledgeable countryman and for his many gifts to and sponsorships of a wide variety of causes and individuals through his chairmanship of the Dulverton Trust. The breadth of the trust's interests was notable and covered such disparate activities as financial aid to the Earl of Longford's study group on pornography, which was active in research into the subject in the 1970s, and sponsorship of *Gypsy Moth IV*, the yacht in which Sir Francis Chichester sailed single-handed round the world in 226 days in 1966-67. It is to Dulverton's credit that *Gypsy Moth IV* was eventually preserved as part of the nation's maritime heritage at Greenwich where she can be seen to this day in a concrete dry berth not far from the *Cutty Sark*. Lord Dulverton also commissioned the 272ft Overlord Embroidery, which portraies the Normandy landings, gave it to the nation.

Frederick Anthony Hamilton Wills was the son of the 1st Lord Dulverton who had been chairman of Imperial Tobacco from 1924 to 1947. His mother was a daughter of Rear-Admiral Sir Edward Chichester, Bt, and hence he himself was a cousin to Francis Chichester. He was educated at Eton and Magdalen College, Oxford, where he took his MA and where he became Waynflete fellow in 1932.

A keen enthusiast for territorial soldiering, he was commissioned into the Lovat Scouts (TA) in 1935. Throughout



During his time at Cambridge, however, his abilities were quickly recognised. Professor Winfield was later to record: "I have had some 50 years' experience in teaching law and he was one of the best pupils I have ever had." The equally distinguished Professor Wade commented: "Röhr offered me, unasked, a most intelligent critique of my introduction to Dicey's *Law of the Constitution* less than a year after he started his learning of English law." Although Röhr was prevented by internment from sitting for his degree, he was in *absentia* awarded a degree at the level of first class honours.

Not only was Röhr a brilliant scholar at Cambridge, he was also acknowledged by the then professor of music as a "first class amateur pianist". Indeed, throughout his life he was to bring to his playing of the piano the same meticulous accuracy and undisturbedness that he brought to the law.

By 1941 some of those who had been interned were permitted to join the army in a "non-combatant" role. So it was that the brilliant Austrian law student found himself in the lowest rank in the Pioneer Corps. Worse, he was required to play the piano for the dances in the sergeants' mess; and, to a man for whom even Mozart was a trifle raucous, this was purgatory indeed. But Röhr's military fortunes changed: he was transferred to the 7th Armoured Division where — even more inconspicuously to those who knew him later — he became a dispatch rider.

LORD DULVERTON



the second world war he served with the Lovat Scouts and was promoted major in 1944.

In 1950 he became a member of the board of Imperial Tobacco and in the same year was appointed a joint Master of the North Cotswold Foxhounds. Hunting was a passion — as it had been with his father — and "Woodbine Willy" as he was known, was a familiar figure in the field. In 1956 his father died and the second Lord Dulverton inherited his title and estate, then valued at more than £4million gross. He inherited, too, the chairmanship of the Dulverton Trust, through which his father had, in his day, been such a munificent benefactor.

He had married, in 1939, Judith Betty, a daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon Ian Leslie Melville. This marriage ended in 1960 in a widely-publicised divorce, which followed not long after Dulverton's resignation as joint master of the North Cotswold pack.

With the end of the war came promotion to warrant officer and a post with the education branch of the British military government in Berlin.

Back in England in 1947 and, already enrolled at Gray's Inn, Röhr was called to the bar. After a brief pupillage in Chancery Chambers, he was invited to join the Parliamentary Counsel Office. The office was expanding and Röhr's prodigious intellect had been brought to the attention of the then First Parliamentary Counsel, Sir Granville Ram. In May 1947 Röhr took up his post as an "unestablished assistant" in the office. At this time he also changed his name to Henry Peter Rowe and married Patricia, who was to give him such wonderful support for the rest of his life.

The contrast between Rowe's spoken and written word was considerable. His speech was overlaid with a strong accent. In addition, he was very softly spoken. These factors did not make him the easiest man to understand, particularly in the technical world of statute law. His writing, however, and particularly his drafting, was fluent, lucid and concise. When he had taken a view on some issue, a crisp, clear — and sometimes acerbic — letter would go to the instructing department setting out the Rowe position. The "Rowe position" indeed for him was not of a man whose mind was easily changed. The views he formed were the result of a logical analysis of the problems and the relevant legal principles; how then could they be changed?

In 1971 Rowe was appointed CB and, in 1973, he became one of two joint Second Parliamentary Counsel. In 1977 he became First Parliamentary Counsel. In 1978 he was created KCB and took silk.

He leaves a widow, two sons and a daughter.

APPRECIATIONS

Lord Fieldhouse

LORD Fieldhouse's obituary (February 18) inadvertently shortened his career at both ends. In fact he began it at Dartmouth (aged 13½) in 1941, not in 1944 as stated, and ended it on the threshold of becoming chairman of the Military Committee of Nato. Indeed it was in Brussels and at a meeting of that committee that he suffered the massive vascular accident which, though miraculously repaired at the time, was in the end to lead to his death.

It is not accurate either to remember his early reputation as having been "something of a Whitehall Warrior." Until he went in 1973, to be director of naval warfare, he was markedly short on MoD experience; and the appointment was thus of the "make or break" variety. But he proved himself then in Whitehall — as he had earlier proved himself at sea when, as executive officer of *Hermes*, his captain went sick, and he (already a successful submariner) had opportunity to demonstrate his competence as a comparatively junior officer in command of an aircraft carrier.

John Fieldhouse's personality was not mentioned. He was a quiet, phlegmatic Yorkshireman — and proud of it (Yorkshire lams gambol with a submariner's dolphins on his coat of arms). He was invariably considerate of others and had a delightful sense of humour and was without a trace of "side." For these reasons he was greatly respected and very well liked by all who worked with him, of whatever relative rank.

No appreciation of his career can be complete without mention of the part his wife Margaret, "Midge" to all who know her, played in it. They were a team whose characters complemented each other perfectly. Where he was calm, she was effervescent. Where he was in duty bound to be reserved, she spoke her mind fearlessly — to anybody. She was a splendid support to him — especially when he was a very senior officer under pressure, and never more so than at Northwood and during the Falklands War.

P. R. D. K.

career, as she was then as good an operational submariner as any in commission and was in the forefront of bridging the gap between snorkelling diesel-powered boats and the era of nuclear propulsion and the true submarine.

As at every stage of John's dazzling career, his appointment to *Totem* came at exactly the right time and led to early command. He gained experience of surveillance and shadowing operations against hostile trigger-happy opponents: he was the automatic choice when the commanding officer of our first nuclear submarine fell out; then he gained unexpected experience of commanding an aircraft-carrier when his captain went sick; above all, he was in the right place to mastermind the hair-raising risks which had to be accepted in recovering the Falklands. Galtieri only had to stay his hand for six months and there would have been no contest, our key ships already scuttled or sailing under other flags.

His skill at playing the Whitehall game probably owed much to his father having been a permanent under secretary. The shrewdest civil servants or politicians were misled by his disarmingly polite but direct manner, especially when he felt that our national interest was being overlooked in pursuit of short-term political ends. In April 1982 I was invited to lunch at his headquarters at Northwood, accompanied by another old shipmate. It was the day the main body of the Task Force sailed for the



South Atlantic. The expected telephone call cancelling lunch never came, so we set off. On the steps of Admiralty House John met us in uniform, all smiles. "Did you hear the news on your car radio?" he asked. "The wrong Minister has resigned" (Lord Carrington).

Lunch was a convivial affair, presided over by his adoring wife and steadfast supporter, Midge. Apart from the fact that his chief of staff left early, it was relaxed and unburdened. The commander-in-chief never glanced at his wrist-watch.

J. O. C.

FEB 19 ON THIS DAY 1855



The charge of the Light Brigade was the least of Britain's misfortunes in the Crimea. The red tape described by the correspondent, together with inefficiency, lack of supplies and an ageing commander-in-chief all contributed to a disastrous, if victorious, campaign.

A DEFENCE OF "THE SYSTEM"

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir, In your correspondent's letter from Balaklava published in *The Times* of Monday an incident is mentioned respecting the conduct of an official there, who declined to issue stores on the requisition of an assistant-surgeon. At first sight this appears to be a harsh and unfeeling act, and probably was really so, as means might have been devised for obtaining a proper order. But the fact is valuable, as it is a case in point, and, if it is investigated, will lead to the real cause of the dead lock which has existed to such an extent, and has been attended with such calamitous consequences.

I have always hoped that some one new or formerly connected with the War-office would step forward and put their finger on the cause of obstruction that has paralyzed the issue of our stores, and I hoped that in some of the late discussions on the wretched state of the camp before Sebastopol the real cause would be alluded to.

That cause I believe to be the system of accounts, by which an officer is liable for any stores committed to his care unless he can obtain and file a receipt, not from the party for whom the goods are intended, but from the head of a department, from whom alone he can receive a document which will protect him when his accounts

are made up at the end of the war. Thus the whole clothing of a regiment arrives at its use, but the requisition for it is not made up until the end of the war, as an interval of 1,000 leagues. Blunders have no doubt occurred, and always will occur in warfare. The want of a road from Balaklava has been the cause of very great misery, delay, and disaster; but the real difficulty has lain throughout in the wretched system which has sacrificed our gallant army to enable auditors and accountants to balance their books when the war is over.

The plain remedy for such a state of things is, simply, to treat our commanding officers as honest men. If a regiment requires clothing, food, or fuel, let it be forthcoming on receipt of an order from the commanding officer, where it is practicable, by the Brigadier. The same with hospitals — a requisition from the youngest assistant-surgeon in the service, if he is in charge of an hospital, ought to place within his reach every medicine and comfort in store. Better far that a few thousand pounds worth of stores should be unaccounted for at the end of the war than that one British soldier should lose his life for the want of comforts that are within his reach.

I remain, Sir, your most obedient servant,
J. H. ELPHINSTONE
Logie Elphinstone, Feb. 14

Receptions

Glaziers' Company
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs, attended a reception last night at Glaziers' Hall to mark the tenth anniversary of the London Stained Glass Reposeitory. Mr Alfred Fisher, Master of the Glaziers' Company, Mr George Gee, chairman of the repository trustees, and Mr Roger Shrimplin, chairman of the repository committee, were the hosts. The Duke of Grafton, an Honorary Freeman of the Glaziers' Company, introduced the work of the repository in rescuing endangered stained glass.

International Press Foundation
Mr Paul Hodgson, Chairman of the Governors of the International Press Foundation, presided at a reception held yesterday at Press Foundation House, Westminster, to mark the publication of the 1992 report *As We See You — Comme Nous Vous Voyons*.

Latest wills

Lord Rothes, of North Standen, Berkshire, chairman of Chrysler UK, left an estate valued at £4,216,414 net. He left his estate mostly to relatives.

Horticulture

Gold medal adorns spineless holly

By ALAN TOOGOOD, HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

Dryandra drummondii with long deeply cut leaves, and *Correa backhouseana*, a compact shrub with grey oval leaves. Foliage is also dominant on the stand of *Burncoose* and *South Down Nurseries*, of Redruth, Cornwall. Also attracting attention is an unusual shrub, *Edgeworthia chrysantha*, whose terminal clusters of cream and yellow tubular flowers emit a strong, sweet fragrance. It is quite hardy, but prefers a warm sunny wall and needs acid soil. A gold medal has been awarded to this exhibit.

Miniature spring bulbs are creating a colourful carpet throughout the show. The Cyclamen Society, of Benenden, Kent, is showing forms of *Cyclamen coum*, including unusual double-flowered forms, and another with bicoloured flowers, in light and dark pink.

On the stand of Poterion and Martin, of Newton, Lincolnshire, a new cultivar of *Irish mistletoe* really stands out. Named *Sheila Ann Germany*, it has beautifully clear ice-blue flowers marbled with deeper blue.

Orchids are providing further colour. An impressive bank of *Isotria medeolae* really stands out. Oakley, of Beckenham, Kent, features *Lycaste lasiocarpa*, from Guatemala (almost extinct in the wild), whose brown and gold flowers have a prominent beard. Some of its dark red hybrids are also being shown, together with a deep orange hybrid, *Autumn Glow*.

The RHS competition for ornamental plants is well supported, with Bords Hill Gardens, of Haywards Heath, West Sussex, winning the major classes for plants shown for flowers, fruits, foliage and coloured bark. Their

specimens of *Mahonia japonica* are adding fragrance to the show.

In the British Iris Society's competition for dwarf bulbous irises, Mrs M. Fraser, of King's Langley, Hertfordshire, has won the mini Peckham cup for varieties of *Irises reticulata*.

In the exhibition of botanical paintings, photographs and drawings, gold medals have been awarded to Christine Hart Davies, of Poole, Dorset (lichen); Nanahon Botanical Institute, of Pretoria, South Africa (South African flora); Katherine Piddies, of St Ola, Orkney (plants from the family Ranunculaceae); and Sir Peter Smithers, of Vico Morcone, Switzerland (photographs of Vico Morcone).

The show, in the New Horticultural Hall, Greycoat Street, Westminster, is open today from 10am to 5pm.

Appointments

Major General Geoffrey William Field, late RE, to be Honorary Colonel, Royal Engineers Volunteers (Specialist Units).

Mr Leslie Walker Lawrence Dunneley to be a joint district judge at the King's Lynn, Norfolk, Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft and Wisbech county courts and in the district registry of the High Court at King's Lynn, Norfolk, from April 6.

Mr Christopher John Tromans to be a joint district judge at the Plymouth county court and in the district registry of the High Court at Plymouth, from April 6.

Mr Trevor Graham Breen to be a joint district judge at the Uxbridge Slough and Reigate county courts, from April 6.

Today's royal engagements

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will attend a reception given by the Ashmolean Museum at Spencer House at 6.30.

The Princess of Wales will attend a reception to celebrate RoSPA's 75th anniversary at Guildhall at 6.45.

● BUSINESS NEWS 19-25
● SPORT 26-30

Market 'can call on £18 billion'

Lloyd's denies seeking Bank of England aid

By Neil Bennett, Banking Correspondent

LLOYD'S of London has furiously denounced newspaper reports that it has approached the Bank of England for financial help after heavy losses.

The insurance market yesterday issued a statement saying there was "no truth whatsoever in the article in today's issue of the *Financial Times* that Lloyd's is seeking financial support from the Bank of England."

"Lloyd's centrally is not and has not been involved in any discussion with the Bank nor has any request been made for assistance from the Bank or government ministers."

The statement was confirmed by the Bank. The false suggestion that Lloyd's has asked the Bank for support for its £2.50bn names is the latest addition to the hysteria over the ability of names to pay their debts.

Lloyd's yesterday said it had

committed £18 billion from premium income and assets that belong to names.

Lloyd's also has an emergency central fund of £500 million to cover any shortfalls from the names. The fund is raised through annual subscriptions and is expected to increase to £1 billion by the middle of the decade.

Although no formal talks have taken place between Lloyd's and the Bank of England, there are suggestions that a group of individuals in the insurance market has approached the Bank to discuss the market's problems, and have asked the Bank to tell commercial banks to support names by offering loans.

These discussions are not endorsed by Lloyd's, and the Bank has taken no action. Nevertheless, many at Lloyd's are concerned at the amount of funding needed to pay claims in the next two years, estimated at more than £2

billion, and are looking at ways to meet requirements.

The clearing banks have denied they are withdrawing credit from insurance syndicates. Instead, short-term bank lending to the insurance market is rising as syndicates are forced to borrow to meet claims while they wait for settlements from reinsurers and additional funds from their names. By offering these overdrafts, the banks are helping to ease a sterling shortage in the market caused by the rising level of claims and the usual delay in reinsurance settlements.

Paul Archard, chairman of the Lloyd's Underwriting Agents Association, said that most syndicates are receiving sympathetic responses from their bankers. "In general, they are being more wary at the moment, but there are no real problems."

An insurance lending expert at one of the main banks said that the cap it had placed on its lending to the market was not under pressure.

The banks have, however, been trying to reduce their exposure to a few troubled syndicates, including the four managed by Gooda Walker. Last month, the 4,000 names on these were asked to pay a £101 million cash call largely to repay bank borrowings.

The banks also said they are prepared to lend to customers who suffer losses as names. Lord Alexander of Wealdton, the chairman of National Westminster, said that Coutts & Co. its subsidiary, where 9 per cent of names hold accounts, was advancing loans to some of its customers who had been caught on loss-making syndicates. "There had been no pressure from the Bank of England to do so, he added."

Other private banks, including Kleinwort Benson, are providing loans to clients to cover Lloyd's losses. Most of these loans are secured on assets, such as share portfolios. They are likely to increase substantially this summer, when Lloyd's announces losses for its 1989 year, estimated to exceed £1.35 billion.

Leading article, page 15

Public borrowing overshoot likely

By Colin Narbrough, Economics Correspondent

GOVERNMENT finances bounced back to show a £3.63 billion surplus in January, lifted by corporation tax payments, but the underlying deterioration is still expected to prevent Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, holding borrowing down to his target for the current fiscal year.

The Treasury data showed that after ten months of 1991-2, the cumulative public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR) stands at £6.6 billion, more than twice the level at the same stage last year. The Treasury target in Mr Lamont's autumn statement in November was for a PSBR of £10.5 billion. City forecasters expect a substantial overshoot, as recession drives up government expenditure while reducing revenues, taking the PSBR to at least £12 billion.

The repayment in January, traditionally the bumper month for receipts, followed

an exceptionally large deficit, or borrowing requirement, of £1.24 billion in December. Although last month's repayment, or surplus, was broadly in line with City forecasts, it is substantially lower than the surplus of more than £5 billion reported in January last year and in 1990.

Independent economists have given warning that the PSBR could shoot up to beyond £25 billion, particularly if Mr Lamont cuts taxes in the Budget on March 10. Signs that the fall in credit-financed car sales could be bottoming out are in the latest survey from HP Information, the vehicle information organisation. It shows that the number of car deals financed with credit in January was 12 per cent down on January 1991, compared with an annual drop of 19.1 per cent in January last year.

Industry too gloomy, page 20

City legal advice panel proposed

By Our Banking Correspondent

A COMMITTEE of bankers and stockbrokers has proposed the formation of a panel to advise firms on potential legal problems in the City and a liaison group to lobby the government for changes in legislation to improve the operation of the financial markets.

The Legal Risk Review Committee, chaired by Lord Alexander of Wealdton, chairman of National Westminster, yesterday published his consultative document, *Reducing Uncertainty - The Way Forward*, which recom-

mends establishing a financial law panel to advise banks and securities firms of the impact of British and European law on their businesses, and warn them of any potential problems.

The committee also proposes a financial law liaison group, containing City figures and government officials to discuss changes in the law needed to clarify the legal position of financial markets. The committee hopes both bodies would be funded by firms, either through annual subscriptions or fees charged

to users. The paper is being sent to firms and the government for discussion.

The Legal Risk Review Committee was established last year by the Bank of England after the dispute over interest rate swap contracts taken out by local authorities, believed to have cost banks up to £600 million. In response to the swap affair, the committee is calling for the abolition of the *ultra vires* laws, in which financial contracts with councils can be annulled if the transactions are beyond their statutory powers.

Milken agrees \$1.3bn settlement

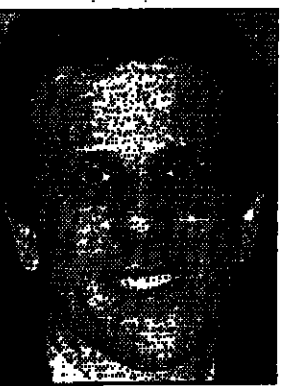
From Philip Robinson in New York

MICHAEL Milken, jailed for ten years for criminal activities in the junk bond market, has agreed a \$1.3 billion settlement with those suing him for damages.

Some former colleagues at Drexel Burnham Lambert, the investment bank planning to emerge from bankruptcy next month and his ex-employer, are included in the deal, which is believed to be a record.

The agreement needs the approval of a bankruptcy court judge and more than 9,000 individuals connected with the case and is designed as a once-and-for-all settlement with the American government and investors.

Despite the size of the payout, Milken's personal fortune of close to a \$1 billion is expected to remain largely intact. Milken and a



Milken: deal from jail

ment buyouts of the Eighties but when the market collapsed three years ago, so did many of Milken's biggest customers: insurance companies and savings and loan associations. Under the settlement, Milken will pay \$900 million over three years, former Drexel associates \$300 million, and Drexel's insurance company \$100 million.

Milken has already paid \$400 million towards a restitution fund as part of a \$600 million fine after admitting six criminal charges of securities fraud 15 months ago.

Even after paying that, Milken's wealth - he earned \$500 million in 1987 alone - was estimated at \$1 billion. About \$300 million is in names of other family members and those suing Milken claim he has other money in foundations. Only the judge approving the agreement will see details of Milken's per-



Pointed reminder: Peter Morgan, IoD director general, with Mr Lamont at yesterday's report launch

Directors seek help for small companies

By Ross Tyerman, Industrial Correspondent

THE Institute of Directors is calling for drastic cuts in the burdens imposed by government on small companies. In an initiative timed to catch the attention of political parties in the run-up to the election, the institute published a report highlighting the contribution of small firms to the nation's wealth and the burden of bureaucracy on them.

Top of the IoD's wish-list are: payments to companies for collecting simpler, lower, taxes; cheaper litigation to enforce settlement of overdue debts; and simplified dealings with local authorities and government.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, was present at the launch of the report. Pleading "Budget purdah", he devoted most of his speech to an attack on Labour. However, he signalled his desire to raise the threshold at which companies are permitted to submit simplified accounts related to collection of value-added tax.

Simplifying burdens on business has been a recurrent Conservative theme for almost 13 years. The IoD acknowledges improvements which, it believes, have increased the economy's growth potential. It concludes, however, that much remains to be done.

According to the report, companies with fewer than 200 employees account for 99.5 per cent of the UK total, generating 59.4 per cent of private-sector employment and 56.8 per cent of turnover.

According to the IoD, complying with tax laws cost a typical small firm £1,168 during the year to March 1987, or 3.66 per cent of its turnover. For a large company, the average cost, £7,047, was 0.17 per cent of sales revenue. The IoD believes the government and its agencies would have a strong incentive to simplify both taxes and collection procedures if they had to pay companies for tax collection. *Small Firms in the UK Economy*, a *Business Leader's* View, IoD, £50.

Lilley clears Redland's £630m bid for Steetley

By Martin Waller

REDLAND moved significantly closer to success in its £630 million hostile bid for Steetley, a fellow building materials supplier, yesterday when Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, cleared the offer subject to undertakings to sell some of Steetley's assets.

Meanwhile a rival link, a joint venture in building materials with Tarmac, a third firm, has fallen foul of the competition rules and has been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for a full investigation.

Steetley shares jumped 33p to 385p, putting them less than 20p below the bid price in new Redland shares. Redland fell 5p to 473p as dealers sensed eventual victory. The trade department announced the Redland bid would go to the MMC unless "suitable undertakings" were offered by the company to remedy expected adverse effects to competition of a successful takeover.

Mr Lilley believes that putting Redland and Steetley together would give rise to concern over the supply of bricks in the South-East and

of clay roofing tiles in Britain as a whole. Interested third parties are asked to make their views known on what undertakings would be appropriate by next Tuesday.

A ruling on whether any undertakings offered are sufficient to allow the bid to go ahead would be made shortly after. However, the Tarmac-Steetley link will be with the MMC until at least May 16. The Redland bid could theoretically therefore be over and successful before the MMC has finished its study.

Redland immediately welcomed the news, and pledged to sell two Steetley brick plants in the South-East, at Cranleigh, Surrey and Tilmanstone, Kent, as well as the whole Steetley clay tile business if the bid succeeds.

Gerald Corbett, the finance director, said: "Our worry all ways was that although we were prepared to give undertakings, we would be swept in on their coat-tails. It does significantly weaken the Steetley defence. There's now only one deal on the table - the other's with the MMC."

The joint venture has been

referred without Steetley and Tarmac being given a chance to make undertakings. The two have nearly 80 per cent of the North-East brick market, less than 50 per cent of bricks in the South-West and almost 40 per cent of clay tiles nationally. These are the areas indicated as raising competition concerns at the trade department.

Richard Miles, the Steetley chief executive, refused to say if any pledges had been offered by the company but turned down by the department. "The question of specific undertakings was raised, but the minister clearly decided to take a look at the whole joint venture in its entirety," he said. "The market has drawn some conclusions. We have to wait and see."

He added: "Should Redland attempt to 'undertake' their way through this referral, and it is not a foregone conclusion that they can do so, then the paucity of the 'commercial logic' of their bid is exposed for what it is - a total sham."

Comment, page 23

OFFERS WITH REAL CLASS FROM CONTINENTAL

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TODAY IN BUSINESS

WORST EVER



Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman of Lloyd's Bank, leads off later this week what is expected to be the worst ever round of annual results from the main high street clearers

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GERMAN SLIP

Germany has slipped into a trade deficit for the first time in ten years. Unification caused an increase in imports

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READY



Sir John Cuckney, chairman of Royal Insurance, has set up a joint venture for the single European market

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FALLBACK

America has set up a fallback arrangement in the event of Gatt falling. It is a North American free trade zone

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BANK PACT



Anthony Hitchens, chairman of Y J Lovell, the housebuilder, has made a new agreement with his bankers

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STOCK MARKET

US dollar 1.7500 (-0.0243)
German mark 2.8870 (+0.0070)
Exchange index 90.6 (-0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

INTEREST RATES

FT 30 share 1983.7 (+13.1)
FT-SE 100 2555.9 (+14.9)
New York Dow Jones 3255.81 (+9.84)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 20872.03 (-452.95)
London: Bank Base: 10 1/4%
3-month Interbank 10 1/4%
3-month eligible bills 9 3/4%
US: Prime Rate 6 1/2%
Federal Funds 4 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 3.82-3.81%
30-year bonds 10 1/2-10 1/4%

CURRENCY

London: New York
£ \$1.7514
DM \$2.8854
Sfr \$2.0078
FF \$6.2895
Yen \$24.08
Index 50.6
ECU \$0.70405
ECU 1.40832
London forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM \$353.50 pm \$352.80
close \$351.65-352.15 (201.00-201.50)
New York:
Comex \$352.05-352.55

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Mar) \$17.65 bbl (\$17.60)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 135.6 January (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Royal takes partners for single market

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

ROYAL Insurance and two continental groups have agreed to a £177 million joint venture in one of the industry's most visible responses yet to the single European market and the opening up of eastern Europe.

Royal, Fondiaria of Italy, and Aachener und Münchener Beteiligungs, the German insurer, will be joint and equal shareholders in a Luxembourg holding group, European Partners for Insurance Cooperation (Epic). Epic will operate throughout Europe, other than in the partners' home territories, and will eventually take over their non-domestic business. At present, the three companies' non-domestic European premium income totals £450 million.

The deal is likely to be scrutinised by the European Commission, but Royal expects it to be a matter of routine. Roy Randall, head of corporate relations for Royal, said: "We have had discussions with the commission. It has to be put forward [for commission review] but we can say we don't expect any hurdles."

The commission refused to comment. "It has not been notified so far," a spokesman said. "We can't say anything for the moment."

Legal experts said a commission enquiry could well find in favour of a link-up.

"It depends on the structure (of the venture), but this looks like the sort of thing the commission is likely to be more in favour of," said John Radford, from the EC offices of Stanbrook and Hooper, the lawyers. "It's a natural consolidation that would help create a single market in insurance."

As part of the deal, AMB and Fondiaria will put £59 million each into Epic. Royal will sell Rodutch, its Dutch subsidiary, whose principal asset is the Royal Nederland insurance group, to the Epic consortium for £205 million, and will also sell Royal Leven, a Dutch life insurer, to Rodutch for £20 million.

The net receipts for Royal amount to £166 million, equivalent to the gross receipts less its £59 million stake in Epic. Royal said yesterday that the net receipts would be used to bring down gearing by 11 percentage points from a present level

thought to be around 33 per cent. To fund the purchase of Royal's Dutch subsidiaries, Epic will need to raise a further £34 million in capital markets.

Sir John Cuckney, chairman of Royal, said the deal amounted to "a more comprehensive European coverage than we could achieve on our own".

It is thought that one of Epic's main markets for expansion will be eastern Europe. Wolf-Dieter Baumgardt, ABM's managing director, said that "even for a group of our size it is easier and better to deal with the tasks facing us not only in the increasingly concentrated west European markets but also in the newly opening market of eastern Europe".

Alfonso Scarpa, Fondiaria's managing director, said: "This operation confirms that co-operation is more productive than takeover."

Apart from eastern Europe, which the three companies regard as a potentially lucrative market, the harmonisation of European Community insurance laws is another incentive to closer co-operation.

The deal follows several months of negotiations and comes amid uncertainty surrounding AMB. Last year Royal sold its 18.8 per cent stake in the German company to Crédit Suisse. And Assurances Générales de France, the state-owned French insurance group, has built up a 25 per cent stake in AMB, but can vote only a small part of its holding because AMB's management has refused to register recent share purchases. Such refusal is permissible under German law, although it is widely regarded, even inside Germany, as an archaic way to deal with an unwelcome shareholder.

There has been some speculation in Germany that a compromise agreement could be worked out. AGF has also shown interest in taking part in the joint venture. On the London stock market, shares in Royal closed up 2p at 232p, amid market satisfaction over the price it will receive for Rodutch. The British company has been heavily hit by the recession and especially by mortgage indemnity losses.



Positive shrinking: Ashtead, the plant hire group, led by Peter Lewis, chairman, right, and George Burnett, managing director, say the effect of recession on its rivals is good news for the company. But Ashtead is not unscathed. Interim pre-tax profits were £1.5 million (£2.5 million). The payout stays at 1.1p/Temps, page 22

Nestlé and Indosuez agree over cheese bid

FROM REUTER IN PARIS

NESTLÉ and the Cie de Suez arm of Banque Indosuez have agreed that Crédit Agricole should have important powers over the Caves de Roquefort cheese manufacturer if their joint bid for control of Roquefort's parent, Source Perrier, is successful.

Nestlé and Indosuez are bidding Fr1.475 a share for all of Perrier.

Nestlé said it was convinced that existing agreements covering milk sold to

Caves de Roquefort would continue to be respected. Nestlé and Indosuez said Crédit Agricole, which has a 26 per cent stake in Roquefort, would continue to control as many seats on the cheese-maker's board of directors as Perrier.

If Perrier wanted to sell any of its shares in Caves de Roquefort, Crédit Agricole could choose the buyer, though it could not come from the Crédit Agricole

group, Nestlé and Indosuez said.

Nestlé has indicated that cheese is not part of its development strategy and that Caves de Roquefort could eventually be sold.

In 1991, Perrier had consolidated turnover of Fr13.56 billion, including Fr1.6 billion at Caves de Roquefort.

In the same notice, Nestlé and Indosuez confirmed that they have agreed to sell Perrier's Volvic still water business to BSN, the French food group, for one fifth of the market capitalisation of Perrier, plus fees and commissions stemming from the takeover bid for Perrier.

The Fr1.475-per-share bid for Perrier implied a market capitalisation of Fr13.25 billion, yielding a value of Fr2.65 billion for Volvic, not including fees and commissions.

Nestlé and Indosuez said the price of Volvic would be adjusted to take into account the difference between Volvic's net debt and one fifth of the Perrier group's debt.

If their bid succeeded, Nestlé and Indosuez said that Perrier shares could be withdrawn from the Paris bourse.

The bidders revealed that between them and their joint subsidiary, Demilac, they hold 71,500 shares in Perrier.

Lowndes to manage US tunnel insurance

BY MICHAEL TATE
CITY EDITOR

A BRITISH firm has won the contract to manage the insurance cover for the \$5 billion Boston Harbour Tunnel.

Lowndes Lambert Construction, a division of Lowndes Lambert Group Holdings, working with a Boston broker, said that it had been appointed to manage the cover for the central artery and tunnel project.

Known as the "big dig", the project involves the construction of 3.5 miles of tunnels and 2.3 miles of bridges for a ten-lane highway with feeder roads to relieve traffic congestion in Boston city centre. The work is expected to cost \$5.025 billion over nine years and generate 15,000 jobs.

The insurance cover to be arranged for the overall project will be primarily underwritten in America, but with significant participation from Lloyd's of London and other international markets.

The \$500 million aviation liability cover for the work around Boston's Logan airport will be placed with Lloyd's, as will much of the marine-related risk cover. Specialised "wrap-up" policies are envisaged for the builder's risk, general liability, marine and aviation liability and worker's compensation insurance.

Industry too gloomy, says Leigh-Pemberton

BY OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

ROBIN Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England, has attacked industry for painting an overly pessimistic view of the economy, and predicted that government figures out tomorrow will show the economy flattening out in the final quarter of 1991 rather than declining.

After the publication last week of official industrial production figures, which showed a 0.1 per cent fall in the fourth quarter, forecasters predicted that initial estimates of the gross domestic product would show a fall.

That would make the recession the longest for 60 years.

But in a speech at the Engineering Employers' Federation biennial dinner, Mr Leigh-Pemberton said industrial output data last week indicated a "flattening-off" in output in the final quarter.

He said he hoped that the GDP data would show industry mistaken in its view that there was a steep fall. He reiterated the Bank's forecast in its latest Quarterly Bulletin that the economy would recover this year. In November, the Bank forecast recovery by the end of 1991.

Owners Group adds airbuses

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

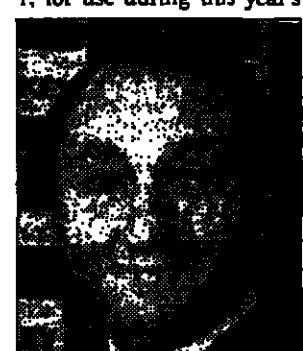
OWNERS Abroad Group, Britain's second largest package holiday and aircraft group, is expanding its Air 2000 charter airline fleet, by leasing four new Airbus A320 aircraft.

The group, where Howard Klein, the chairman, is due to report final results today, has decided to take on the Airbus A320 after increased demand from its tour operating and aviation divisions, as well as from independent tour operators.

The upsurge in demand has been for aircraft smaller than Air 2000's existing fleet of 15 Boeing 757s, which have 233 seats each. The new Airbus A320, with 179 seats, will be able to operate from the smaller provincial airports of Bristol, Cardiff, Edinburgh, East Midlands and

Stansted. They will also open up some new routes. The new aircraft will be taken on nine-year operating leases from ORIX Aviation Systems of Dublin.

Two of the aircraft will be delivered to Air 2000 by May 1, for use during this year's



Klein: reporting today

summer season, with the remaining two due to come into service next year. More than 250 jobs will be created by the addition of a second aircraft type to the Air 2000 fleet.

All four aircraft will be powered with International Aero Engine's latest V2500 engines. Rolls-Royce is a partner in the IAE consortium.

Julie Farrar, at County NatWest WoodMac, said: "It looks like a very good leasing deal and it's a sign that the demand is there. It's a good omen."

County forecasts a jump in today's final pre-tax profits to £30.5 million (£15.3 million), reflecting a recovery from the depressed Gulf war trading period and increased market share, after the collapse of ILC. Owners shares rose 2p to 120p.

Johnstone to buy US sweeper firm

BY MATTHEW BOND

JOHNSTONE Group, an engineering and construction company, is moving into the mechanised road sweeper business in America by acquiring some assets of FMC Corporation's Californian sweeper division.

Johnstone's road sweeping reputation has been built on its vacuum sweepers. While these have been successful in Britain, achieving a profitable level of sales in North America, where mechanical sweepers are favoured, has been more difficult.

The acquisition of the FMC business will make Johnstone the second largest maker of road sweepers in America. Funding for the acquisition will come from a recently

negotiated, medium-term banking facility.

The final size of the deal will be determined by an audit to be carried out at the end of March. This is expected to produce a valuation of \$6.5 million. Johnstone's consideration will be \$600,000 less than the final book value.

Brian Deller, finance director, admitted that the FMC business was making losses but said Johnstone was confident that it could break even within 12 months and return to profit quite quickly.

The FMC acquisition was accompanied by a warning that the group's 1991 figures would contain further property writedowns. These relate to three office blocks the company has built in south-east England. Totalling about 70,000 sq ft of space, the blocks are complete but unsold. At the end of 1990, they stood in Johnstone's books at £17 million.

Further writedowns are expected after an external valuation, now in progress. Last October, Johnstone reported first-half pre-tax profits of £1.25 million, 56 per cent down on the first half of 1990.

Blue Circle does a deal in Norway

BY MARTIN WALLER

BLUE Circle Industries, the biggest cement producer in Britain, has invested £1.3 million in a joint venture with Selvaag Group, a large Norwegian housebuilder, to export cement to Norway.

The company has also paid £2.8 million for the assets of an Italian sanitaryware maker, bought from the liquidator in a competitive tender.

Blue Circle expects to ship about 100,000 tonnes of cement from its Northfleet works on the Thames estuary to two new purpose-built terminals in Oslo and Stavanger owned by the joint venture, in which it will take a 49 per cent holding.

Britain's second-biggest cement producer, Castle Cement, which is Scandinavian-owned, currently ships some cement from Scandinavia into Britain.

The Italian purchase, Simi, has a plant 40 miles from the existing sanitaryware factory north of Venice of Blue Circle's Italian business, Ceramica Dolomite. About three quarters of Simi's output goes to the Italian market and the rest to other countries in the European Community.

US politics fail to halt trade talks

BY COLIN NARBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

NEGOTIATORS from America, Canada and Mexico have made clear that they will push for a North American free trade zone, regardless of the American presidential elections and unresolved differences between Washington and Ottawa.

The planned North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta) would provide America with a full-back arrangement, if the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade's Uruguay Round talks on world trade failed.

Julius Katz, the American delegation leader, responded yesterday to concern that the political agenda in America would hold up a deal. He said there had been no decision not to proceed with the agreement this year. The Bush administration earlier voiced the hope that a world trade accord and Nafta would be put to Congress for approval early this year.

Canada has a bilateral free trade

pact with America, but American import duty on Canadian-built Japanese cars has caused disagreement. Nevertheless, the Canadian delegation said it did not intend to walk out of the Nafta talks. Instead, lessons from the America-Canada deal would be used to help formulate the Continent-wide agreement. Despite the public pledges to progress on an agreement, delegates were privately indicating that Nafta could be put on hold for at least a year, if this week's meeting produced no tangible result.

Japan, meanwhile, has called for a meeting to amend the final draft for a Uruguay Round accord. It does not consider that the text affords balanced treatment of countries exporting farm goods and those importing them, according to Jiro Shiwaku, the Japanese deputy minister for agriculture.

He said in Tokyo on Monday that the request for the meeting would mean reopening negotiations and possibly unravelling the draft agreement presented before Christmas by Arthur

Dunkel, director-general of Gatt. Mr Shiwaku said that without the meeting, there would be "major confusion", as Japan and other countries disagreed with the draft accord.

Japan has particular difficulty in accepting an opening up of its domestic market to imported rice because of the political clout Japanese rice farmers command. Mr Shiwaku said that, as it stands, the draft agreement would allow export subsidies to continue while import controls would become illegal.

Sir Leon Brittan, vice-president of the European Commission, criticised Japan's latest offer on liberalising its services sector under the Uruguay Round. He said the revised offer tabled at the end of last week aroused some concern because it seemed to contain new restrictions, especially on cross-border banking and investment services.

Sir Leon, on a visit to Japan, said he would seek to encourage the development of a spirit of free competition and open financial markets in Japan.

BUSINESS ROUND UP

Stern group leads race for Maxwell stake

GRUNER & Jahr, the German publisher of Stern magazine, is the front-runner to buy the half share it does not own in an East Berlin newspaper group from the private interests of Robert Maxwell, after a breakdown in talks with a third party, the owner of Sächsische Zeitung, Gruner and the Robert Maxwell Group, a Maxwell private firm, each have 50 per cent of Berliner Verlag, the publisher of Berliner Zeitung and Berliner Kurier.

Gruner has first say over the shares, but it has been warned by the Bundeskartellamt, Germany's cartel agency, to find a partner in order to stay within anti-trust rules. A Gruner & Jahr spokeswoman said Sächsische Verlag pulled out because the company did not want to inherit Maxwell's legal status in Berliner Verlag.

Howard in the red

HOWARD Holdings, the housebuilding and plant hire company, suffered a pre-tax loss of £211,248 (£154,765 profit) in the six months to end-October. Once again, there is no interim dividend. Last August, the group unveiled a taxable deficit of £495,000. Turnover fell to £2.71 million (£3.94 million), and the company said prospects for improvement depend on the national economy. There is a 0.69p loss per share (0.4p earnings). The shares lost 1p to 13½p.

Norex profits fall

NOREX, the shipping and insurance broker, said its results had been affected by a writedown in the book value of small vessels, forced by the depressed state of the shipping market. The group made pre-tax profits of £2.52 million for the six months to end-December, down from £3.5 million. Turnover fell from £17.8 million to £14.67 million, largely due to the sale of Norgulf Shipping last year. Earnings per share fell from 14.67p to 6.09p. There is again no interim dividend.

TR Pacific pays extra

SHAREHOLDERS in TR Pacific Trust are to collect a special dividend of 0.45p on top of a maintained annual dividend of 0.25p. The board says the payment is necessary to comply with regulations that require investment trusts to distribute 85 per cent of their net income. The trust experienced an exceptional surge in pre-tax revenue after reducing its borrowing during the Gulf war. Net asset value advanced by 20.7 per cent from 66.19p to 79.92p a share in 1991. Earnings almost doubled from 0.528p to 1.039p.

Asset value climbs

THE net asset value at Scottish Eastern Investment Trust, the investment trust managed by Martin Currie, rose 23 per cent from 56.5p to 69.5p a share over the year to end-January. This compares with a rise of 18.5 per cent in the FT all-share index over the same period. Pre-tax revenue dipped from £12.7 million to £12.5 million, as total revenue declined marginally to £19.9 million (£20.3 million). Earnings per share were static at 1.42p. The final dividend improves from 0.92p to 0.96p, making 1.42p (1.35p).

Balancing the menu

CHARTERED Accountants' Hall in the City is joining a long list of City livery halls to be promoted for outside functions to help spread the overheads. The institute has called in Leidy's, the upmarket catering company, to provide ten-a-side functions at the hall, specifically to attract more outside functions in the evenings and at weekends. The restaurant, known to generations of young accountants, is also being thrown open to the public. The institute insists that members will still have priority.

Racal links with US

RACAL has signed a joint marketing agreement to sell its data communications and services to the users of BellSouth's telephone network in America. BellSouth, which provides a local telephone service to 17.5 million subscribers, will market its private-line and switched-data services in conjunction with Racal-Datacom's systems. Racal said the agreement would offer customers in nine states in the South-East complete end-to-end network systems and services from a single source.

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Germany slips into current deficit

By Wolfgang Münchau, European Business Correspondent

GERMANY'S current account was in the red by DM34.2 billion in 1991, according to provisional Bundesbank data. It was the first deficit since the recession of 1981.

This is the latest of a string of gloomy economic signals and came only a day after the Bundesbank said that gross national product in the fourth quarter of 1991 had fallen by 0.5 per cent. That was the third successive quarterly fall in output, thus confirming the standard definition of a recession.

The deficit reflects the import surge after unification, and accompanies a collapse of western Germany's trade surplus, which has plummeted by 80.7 per cent to DM20.8 billion. However, sales in eastern Germany contributed about 30 per cent of that surplus, thereby masking the extent of the decline.

America, Japan, France and Britain were the main beneficiaries of the German import surge. Britain's trade deficit with Germany narrowed from DM17.9 billion

to DM8.1 billion, and the figures for France are similar. Germany even recorded a DM1.2 billion trade deficit with America, after a 1990 surplus of DM6.3 billion, while Japan increased its surplus from DM16.9 billion to DM23.2 billion.

There was better news from the federal statistics office, which revised down January's annual inflation figure from 4.1 to 4 per cent, compared with 4.2 per cent in December.

Egon Hölder, president of the office, said underlying inflation was only 3.1 per cent, after indirect tax rises in 1991 were stripped out. That compares with 2.7 per cent a year earlier. The data suggest that the rise in inflation has been policy-induced, and that domestic demand and wage rises have played secondary roles.

On a monthly basis, January inflation was up by 0.4 per cent from December, reversing the usual beginning-of-year price rises. Helmut Schlesinger, president of the Bundesbank, said recently

that end-of-year inflation would show "a three ahead of the decimal point", but parliament's recent approval of an increase in value added tax by 1 percentage point, to 15 per cent from January 1993, will add about 0.6 of a percentage point from next year.

Omar Issing, a member of the Bundesbank central council, appeared to give warning of a rise in January's M3 money supply when he said yesterday that "one should not overvalue monthly data".

The Bundesbank is expected to publish the January data this week or early next. Over the past few months, M3 has risen by close to 10 per cent on an annual basis, compared with a Bundesbank target range of 3.5 to 5.5 per cent.

French industrial production fell by a seasonally adjusted 0.9 per cent in December. The statistical institute said it was possible that fourth-quarter GDP growth was lower than the forecast 0.6 per cent.



Painful two years: Antony Hitchens, chairman

Troubled Lovell reaches pact with its banks

By Matthew Bond

YJ Lovell, the contractor and housebuilder, has reached an agreement with its banks that ensures the group's banking facilities will remain in place at least until the end of the year.

Two months ago, Lovell confirmed it had breached two banking covenants and was in talks with its banks, led by Barclays.

Lovell's total debt is about £106 million, if more than £40 million of off-balance-sheet borrowings are included. Having been required to include £61.5 million of provisions in December's final results, Lovell admitted it had breached its net worth covenant. The interest cover covenant had also been breached.

Under the new agreement, the company's facilities will be extended without covenant, but on a fully secured basis. Robert Selier, Lovell's chief executive, said the banks had commissioned a report to examine whether Lovell's assets offered sufficient security for the borrowings. "That report showed

there was substantial security — certainly enough to satisfy them." He said the company would aim to negotiate new covenants for its borrowings at the end of the year.

Mr Selier said there was no formal requirement for Lovell to make disposals to reduce its debts. "We have not been asked to make asset disposals, but we have said to the banks that if we can sensibly dispose of assets at better than fire-sale prices, we are quite prepared to do so."

Lovell shares rose 4p to 25p yesterday.

The new agreement will buy the company more time to sort out its considerable difficulties. In the two years since Lovell failed in an ambitious £167 million bid for Higgs & Hill, Antony Hitchens, Lovell's chairman, has reported a series of disappointing results.

The company's withdrawal from residential urban renewal has been particularly painful. Write-offs over the past two years total about £36 million.

Colombia seeks talks on prices

FROM REUTER IN CARTAGENA

COLOMBIA has called for a world conference on commodities to decide how to tackle a slump in raw materials prices that has badly hit developing nations.

On Monday, Nuemi Sanin de Rubio, the Colombian foreign minister, told the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) meeting: "All of our countries are being hard hit by the fall in international prices and perhaps by gathering together producers, consumers, marketing companies and other market agents, a coherent international policy can be adopted." She believes the United Nations will convene the conference very soon.

Prices for several commodities, including coffee, cocoa and cotton, have dropped recently, badly affecting developing nations who rely on them for export earnings.

Falling coffee prices last week forced Colombia to cut the price it pays to growers, drawing protests from farmers. Colombia is the main backer of efforts to negotiate a new International Coffee Agreement. The collapse of the old agreement in 1989 led to a sharp fall in prices.

US arm of TNT suffers in recession

TNT, the global transport group, said net income from TNT Freightways Corp, its American trucking unit being floated to the public, fell to \$7.3 million in the six months to December 28 from \$8.42 million a year earlier.

TNT said Freightways first-half operating expenses increased, adding in the prospectus for the public offering that: "A significant downturn in customers' businesses due to a continued recession could have a material effect on the profitability of the company."

TNT is floating 75 per cent of Freightways by issuing 12.5 million shares, 10 million in America and 2.5 million in the rest of the world, at \$19.50 each.

Freightways operates a group of less-than-truckload (LTL) motor carriers delivering in America and to some parts of Canada. TNT said Freightways lifted operating revenue to \$350.65 million in the first half of 1991-2 from \$322.11 million. But the recession hit operations in north-eastern America and California where operating revenues were lower.

TNT said that if the American recession continued, Freightways would reduce working hours, other operating expenses and capital spending. Net income to June 30, 1991 was \$16 million, up from \$14.4 million.

Bond says creditors' sums are wrong

ALAN Bond, the Australian businessman, has won another two weeks to fight a US\$194 million bankruptcy notice.

Mr Bond, whose Aus\$10 billion (£4.25 billion) empire began to crumble under a mass of debt two years ago, is challenging the validity of the notice, issued by three banks led by Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp and handed to him in December. He has until March 2 to comply.

If Mr Bond fails to pay the banks — he has the choice of doing so in American or Australian dollars — they can apply for the appointment of a trustee to take over his assets.

The banks began bankruptcy proceedings against the former chairman of Bond Corp Holdings last September. On March 2, Federal Court Judge Trevor Morling will hear Mr Bond's challenge to the notice.

Bernard Coles, Mr Bond's lawyer, yesterday told the court that the exchange rate used by the banks to calculate the Australian dollar amount was incorrect, invalidating the order. The US\$194 million was a personal guarantee by Mr Bond on a US\$340 million loan to his private company, Dallhold Investments, to fund development of the Greenvale nickel mine in Queensland.

Dallhold was put into liquidation last July.

Investors advised to avoid Ratners

By Gillian Bowditch

RATNERS Group shares are potentially valueless and should be avoided, according to a report by Paul Deacon, retail analyst at Goldman Sachs.

Mr Deacon, who has been researching the company for several months, says Britain's largest jewellery group should survive its current difficulties but that everything hinges on Christmas this year. Ratners' shares stand at 18½p.

Most of Ratners' "debt" is in the form of preference shares and Mr Deacon says accumulated preference dividends, which have to be paid before the group can resume the payment of ordinary dividends, mean that an earnings recovery is some way off.

He adds: "This, together with the risk of equity dilution, or worse, makes the ordinary shares highly speculative and potentially valueless."

Mr Deacon recommends that committed investors should switch into the two convertible preference share issues, which are trading at 17 per cent of face value, or the 4 per cent Euroconvertible bond, which is yielding 98 per cent annualised to the October put option. Although speculative, these instruments could represent good value if Ratners manages a modest reduction in losses, squeezes working capital and sells some assets.

He believes the UK arm of Ratners, whose chief executive is Gerald Ratner, should eventually be able to restore



Ratner: difficulties profits before tax and interest to about £45 million, assuming the strategic problems are addressed and there is no serious problem with the Eurobond, the redemption of which will cost £59 million in October this year.

Mr Deacon says Kay Jewellers, the American operation, bought in 1990, should recover more quickly than the UK as it does not have the same strategic problems. He sees American profits before tax and interest bounding back to about £50 million.

However, total group pre-tax profits of £75 million may not come about until 1995-96. "Although this would imply around 7.8p of earnings, accumulated preference dividends could wipe most of this out," Mr Deacon adds.

Unless there is a substantial resurgence in profitability, the question of capital structure will have to be tackled, a move that, he says, would almost certainly involve dilution for equity holders.

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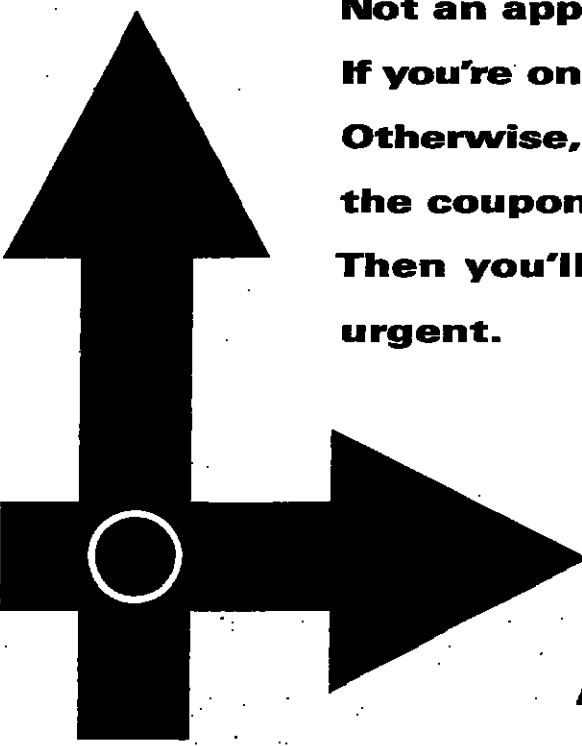
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BY PHILIP PANGALOS

The new airport, which will have an initial capacity of 20 million passengers a year, and new roads connecting it to central Athens, should be completed by 1996. The existing airport at Hellenikon, south of Athens, is expected to close as soon as the new one opens.

Well aware of pitfalls: John Morgan, Porvair chairman and chief executive

Recovery is likely to find many plant hire fleets rusty and seized. Ashtead's will not be one of them.

multiple of over 15. Expensive this year, but quality will out.

Porvair

SHAREHOLDERS in Porvair, the specialist plastics manufacturer, who had their fingers burned in 1989 when the share price almost halved after the group overstretched itself, may be wary about a rights issue intended to allow the company to go on an acquisition spree.

The blot in the company's

copybook, was particularly unfortunate because it came only a year after flotation on the USM. Since then, the group has regained much of its credibility and John Morgan, chairman and chief executive, points out that the company is well aware of the pitfalls of rapid expansion.

The group is raising £3.3 million in a one-for-four rights issue at 115p and says a £3.5 million acquisition is just round the corner, not to mention a couple of joint ventures with textile com-

were seen in Akron, 10p to 363p. Argos, 10p to 283p. Boots, 2p to 463p. Dixons, 2p to 249p. Etam, 4p to 243p. Kingfisher, 14p to 523p. Next, 12p to 682p. Ramblers, 4p to 204p. Sears, 2p to 106p, and Fine Art

232p. **Bardays**, 3p to 380p.
Abby National, 1p to 290p,
 while **Standard Chartered**
 was unchanged on 429p.
McKechnie firmed 5p to
 310p on revived bid hopes.
 Whispers among the specu-
 lators suggest that **Williams**
Holdings, 3p better at 319p,
 may be ready to have another
 go. **Williams** has also made
 unsuccessful bids for **Racal**
Electronics, unchanged at
 54p, and **Norcross**, 2p dearer
 at 124p.

☐ **Tokyo** — Prices dropped sharply and the Nikkei ended

[illegible]

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Redland given a green light

Steeley was putting a brave face on the news yesterday, but it is clear that the twin rulings by the Office of Fair Trading, are a bitter blow. Redland's hostile bid will go ahead, if the company can come up with the necessary undertakings. But Steeley's rival joint venture with Tarmac goes to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, a compromise having failed to materialise over weeks of talks between the two companies.

Redland should have no difficulty coming up with a game plan that satisfies the authorities — indeed, the shortlist of proposed sales that emerged not long after the announcement is clearly the outcome of similar weeks of talks and will come as little surprise to the OFT. The only fear for Redland, and it is a faint one, is that one of the third parties being asked for their views will raise an area of potential competition not yet identified in more than two months of deliberations.

Steeley and Tarmac had not set their faces against some sort of deal, but it is clear that the scale of disposals required by the department would have negated the whole point of the merger and wiped out a large chunk of the estimated £10 million of cost savings it offered. The OFT has taken a tough line on the building materials industry at a time when that industry is going through what some claim is the toughest recession in living memory.

The Redland bid will now presumably resume where it left off, on day 39, shortly after next Tuesday, when representations are due in at the OFT. The expectation in the market, reflected by yesterday's sharp jump in the Steeley share price, is that the bid will eventually succeed but it may have to be sweetened a little. Redland, for its part, points out that this has already happened, via a 20p rise in its share price since the bid was announced while prices elsewhere in the sector have been falling. True, but a boost in the cash element would put the matter beyond doubt.

Auditing audits

The debate over the roles of directors and auditors is hotting up before the preliminary report of the Cadbury committee. Further indication of what it might contain comes in the report of a working party of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Scotland. Its suggestions listed company directors should state in annual reports their responsibility for the accounts, as well as reviewing internal controls. Audit committees of non-executives should deal with audit matters and all directors should read the auditor's annual report to management. Directors should, via a change in the law, also have an obligation to say if they have the resources to ensure the company is a going concern.

Nigel Macdonald, a vice-president of the Scottish Institute and chairman of the working party, is at the centre of this debate. He prepared the somewhat notorious paper on the auditors' report for the Auditing Practices Board which appeared to disclaim much significance for the role of auditors. This turned out to be a useful starting point for the APB's later proposals to hang a series of more useful items on an expanded auditors' report. Mr Macdonald is also a member of the Cadbury committee. If the Scottish Institute proposals are any guide, the Cadbury recommendations may be gradualist and offend few. The critical questions will be whether they are enforced quickly and compulsorily and whether the change of form will lead to a change of substance that will provide a more accurate guide to the state of companies' affairs.

The big banks will soon report their worst-ever figures. Neil Bennett says that despite huge write-offs, the worries may be far from over

Over the next two weeks, Britain's banks will display their scars to the investing public. The reporting season for the banks' 1991 profits promises to be the most dismal in the lenders' history.

The unprecedented number of company insolvencies and the rise in unemployment have caused such a surge in bad debts that one or even two banks will again report losses, something unthinkable five years ago. The City has long been expecting bad news from the lenders about their performance in 1991. What it is praying for is some comfort from the banks' chairmen that the worst might finally be over. Even that is far from certain.

The banks, meanwhile, face a basketful of new troubles. The run of losses has so weakened their financial position that many investors worry they will not be able to meet loan demand when the economy begins to recover, and that a long-fearing "credit crunch" will follow. Worse still, shareholders fear the lenders might be forced to return to the stock market with new rights issues to pay for old mistakes.

The banks' results will be dominated by bad debt provisions. Michael Lever and Alison Beavers, banking analysts at Smith New Court, estimate that provisions at the five main banks, including Abbey National, will total £5.7 billion, a 41 per cent increase on 1990. This means that the banks were writing off £650,000 an hour throughout the year.

Domestic provisions are expected to total 2.58 per cent of British lending. This is more than two-and-a-half times higher than the worst figure during the recession in the early Eighties.

The scale of the bad debt provisions will produce a series of anomalies in the banking figures. Lloyds could become Britain's most profitable bank, with profits up to £30 million higher than Barclays, thanks to a strong contribution from its life assurance subsidiary, Even Abbey National, the former building society, might be able to beat Barclays' profits.

National Westminster is destined to fall particularly hard. Only four years ago, it stood ahead of all its peers in profitability and assets. Now it is teetering on the brink of a loss, thanks to heavy provisions in both Britain and America.

Even NatWest's fate is light compared with the dire problems at Midland. City analysts no longer question whether the bank will make a loss; that much is certain. Instead, the debate is over the size of the deficit. If the bank loses more than £70 million, as most analysts expect, it will exhaust its distributable reserves and be unable to pay a final dividend.

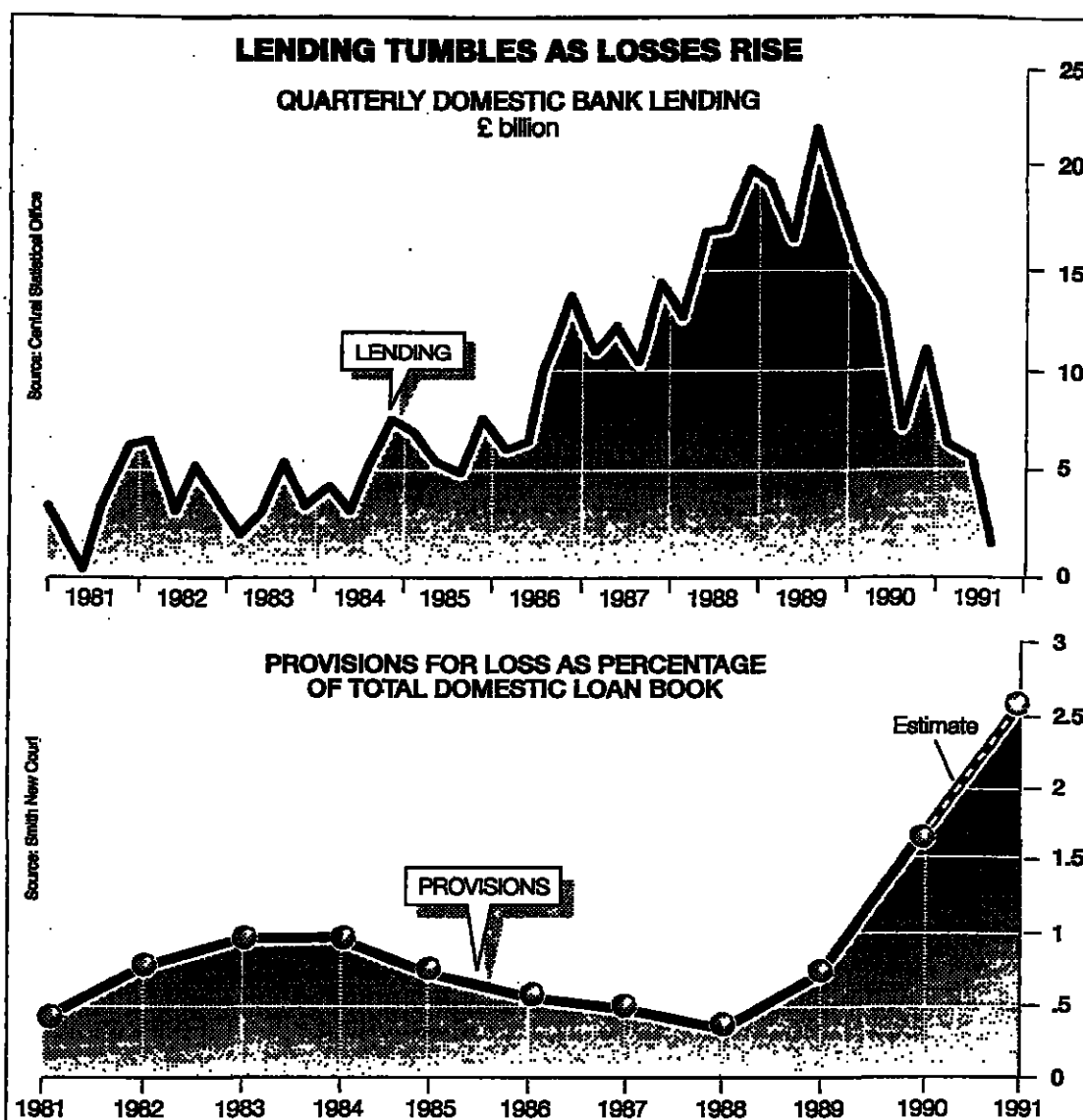


table reserves and be unable to pay a final dividend.

The figures are particularly hard to bear since they indicate further deterioration in the banks' loan books in the second half of 1991. Six months ago, the City hoped that the worst of the provisions was past, and bank shares surged in response. The collapse of Robert Maxwell's media empire and a continuing procession of receiverships and liquidations ensured this optimism was misplaced.

The prospects for any substantial recovery in 1992 also look slim. Bad debt provisions have a close correlation to the number of company failures. These are at record levels, and still rising, although not as rapidly as in the past two years.

The fall in interest rates has brought much-needed relief to companies in the past year, and their recovery will quicken if the economy starts to improve towards the end of the year. The problem is that both

company failures and the resulting bad debt provisions have historically lagged behind the recovery. After the last recession, the banks' bad debt provisions peaked in 1984, while corporate insolvencies reached their peak a year later, when the economy was growing rapidly.

The banks argue that in this recession they have been quicker to spot when a customer is in difficulty and provided against their borrowings earlier, so that bad debts will not continue to rise. The collapse of the Maxwell companies, however, does not inspire confidence about the banks' ability to predict financial troubles before they occur.

The growth in the banks' profits will also be held back by a lack of debt recoveries. In the past, lenders have been able to grow quickly out of a recession by selling the assets on which they had foreclosed. The proceeds enabled the banks to write back some of the

earlier provisions and boost profits. This time, however, the prospect for recoveries is slim. Many of the loans the banks made to smaller companies in the late Eighties were unsecured, and the assets of the companies were negligible in any case. As a result, a large proportion of the provisions will become permanent losses.

On the most optimistic forecasts, bad debt provisions might fall by a quarter in the current year, and still be the second highest on record. But even that would be a welcome relief, boosting profits by £1.4 billion.

The turnaround for NatWest should be swift. A big factor in the bank's poor performance in 1991 was a loss of \$352 million from NatWest Bancorp, its American subsidiary. This should make a small profit in 1992, boosting the group's profits by more than £200 million.

On an optimistic note, the banks have positioned themselves to take full advantage of any fall in bad debts. All of them have implemented intensive cost-cutting programmes. More than 30,000 staff went last year and several hundred unprofitable branches were closed. The long overdue haircut means all the banks are expected to produce record operating profits before provisions. The improvement will be most dramatic at Midland where Smith New Court estimates operating pro-

fit rose 32 per cent to £79 million. Even so, profits will remain severely depressed this year and next, and this has given rise to fears of a credit crunch, where the banks will be unable to lend, due to a shortage of capital.

At present, the capital ratios of the British banks are among the strongest in the world, and well above the 4 per cent international minimum standard set by the Bank for International Settlements in Basel. While their capital is being eroded by bad debt provisions and property write-downs, weak demand for loans means that asset books are static or even shrinking.

The problem will come when the economy begins to recover and lending demand returns. Nevertheless, it would take a growth in assets of 15 or 20 per cent before most of the banks suffered any noticeable capital shortage, and few analysts expect anything near that amount of activity until the middle of the decade.

But the lenders are likely to create a credit crunch of a different type when the borrowers reappear. The current belief among bankers is that they were far too free with credit in the late Eighties, and failed to take proper security or charge adequate rates. They have given notice that this will change. Small companies in particular are already finding it far harder and more expensive to borrow than before. To them this is a credit crunch, whatever the actual cause.

The final obstacle facing the banks is the fall in interest rates, and the prospect that rates will be low long-term now the pound is in the exchange-rate mechanism.

Banks traditionally earn a large proportion of their income from interest-free assets, principally funds in personal current accounts. Smith New Court estimates that these accounted for 22 per cent of income in 1990. But last year, the income came under pressure both from the decline in interest rates and the rising number of customers switching to interest-bearing current accounts. Smith New Court estimates the contribution from interest-free assets fell to 15 per cent last year.

The banks, however, have minimised the effect by widening interest margins and increasing account fees, and seem able to withstand the future erosion of this income source. The past two years have had a profound effect on Britain's banking industry. The devastating rise in bad debt provisions and the resulting losses have shattered the cosy illusion of stability and invulnerability that permeated the dealers. The result has been complete upheaval including job cuts and the arrival of new technology on a scale that revolutionised British industry a decade ago. Meanwhile, the easy credit policies of the free-wheeling Eighties are a distant, bitter memory.

The banks must show they have learnt from their mistakes and are lean and fit enough to take on their strongest rivals in the single European market. Otherwise, the financial tragedy of the past two years will be compounded many times over.

DECLINING FORTUNES - PRE-TAX PROFITS (£m)

	Actual 1990	Smith New Court	1991 ESTIMATES	Goldman Sachs	Yamaichi	Shearson Lehman
Abbey National	582	618	610	622	615	615
Barclays	760	610	570	620	600	600
Lloyds	561	635	615	650	555	555
Midland	11	-43	-80	-107	-75	-75
National Westminster	504	-20	-4	100	150	150

BUSINESS LETTERS

Economy needs frost of recession

From Dr Des Keenan

Sir, Why is it that there is so much lamentation over the recession? Recessions are as beneficial to economies as winters are to gardens.

The capitalist system is not an unstable one but an oscillating one. Its stability has proved immune to wars, bubbles, speculations, frauds, and ever-rising populations. It brought undreamt-of prosperity to millions.

Booms, like spring, promote new enterprises. Recessions weed out the unprofitable and sclerotic firms. Efficiency and adaptability are maximised; cost-cutting and restrictions minimised. Labour was not tied up unprofitably.

The disadvantages of a free capitalist economy were remarked on. A weaver could be employed fully one year, and not at all the next. Attempts were made to flatten

the cycle, to even out the bumps and hollows, to restrict competition by cartels or tariffs. Attempts were made to replace the entire system with a fully planned model.

But none of the alternatives worked. They could not, for they removed the frost of recession. And, the more successful the planners were in removing recessions, the bigger the shake-up there had to be when the artificial constraints were eventually removed.

It was often said that any fool can make a profit in a boom; the successful manager is the one who copes with the recessions as well.

Yours sincerely,
DES KEENAN,
129 Bluebird Walk,
Chalk Hill Road,
Wembley Park,
Middlesex.

Lloyd's: insiders and outsiders

From Mr Piers Gibson

Sir, Mr David Coleridge reacts with understandable fury to the outrageous accusation that "working" or insider names retain the best syndicates for themselves, dumping the outsiders into business where risk reward ratios are less attractive to those in the know.

Could he perhaps deal with those suspicions by publishing comprehensive information on the ratios of insider to outsider names within the capacity of each syndicate. The rest of us could then observe the circumstances of syndicates in which the ratio deviates wildly from the overall market average, in either direction.

Yours sincerely,
PIERS GIBSON,
25 Summer Place,
SW7.

British is not best

From Mr Joris F.W. van Hees

Sir, Mr Roy Jenkins is still very proud to be British and the British Institute of Management is not? I did not read in Mr Jenkins' letter (February 12) any reason why they took the decision to drop the word "British". I only know that British Leyland did so years ago, and that may have "saved" the company. Their products and their name were so bad that nobody on the Continent would ever buy such a British mis-product.

I come from Holland and back home nobody will ever buy British products if they do not really have to. We take a look to the "DIN-Norm" (German) and that gives us a guarantee, more or less. Do you ever see an Austin on the European highways? Never! It is Mr Jenkins' pleasure to show his French friends that

many British A roads are better than their motorways. Well, Mr Jenkins, then I really do not know where you have been. The French "peages" among the best highways in the world: top quality roads that at least have gas stations, parking places, clean picnic areas, toilets etc. All things you can only dream of.

Mr Jenkins is also proud to hear an Italian man, who speaks English to a Russian, find himself at a disadvantage to his British competitor. How pathetic! Well, at least this Italian man does speak another language while most of the British are too lazy for that and too arrogant, because the rest of the world has to speak English.

So it is nice to be proud of being British but sometimes it really helps when you drop the word "British".

Yours faithfully,
JORIS F.W. VAN HEES.

"The Storks", Fairmile Lane, Cobham, Surrey.

From Mr B.W. Dixon FIAC, AMBIM

Sir, As an associate member of The British Institute of Management I am in full agreement with Roy Jenkins' letter (February 12). Why should the word British be dropped? Whatever the reason there must be some other way to handle this delicate situation.

It has always been "British Made", a slogan which has lasted over the years. Surely we must never forget those words.

Roy is right, leave the word BRITISH in please.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN W. DIXON,
3 Dovecot,
Middle Rasen,
Lincolnshire.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Quartet for one

COMPANY doctor David James, who last week announced that he would be handing over the executive reins at Davies & Newman to an ex-Cathay Pacific executive, has had additional cause for celebration in another sphere. A keen opera and music buff, James, a bachelor, has been subsidising some talented musicians. Not only does he personally annually sponsor a series of musical weekends at the Castle Hotel, Taunton, he has also commissioned a string quartet by Anthony Powers, aged 37, whom he describes as "one of the rising stars of British music." The quartet, Powers' second, was performed for the first time on Saturday in Taunton, by the Lindsay Quartet, and was enthusiastically received by the 180-strong audience. They will perform it again in Sheffield tonight and the BBC made a recording of it on Monday. So enthused is James that he is now planning a London performance of the 25-minute work, and is considering another in New York. "It has four movements, all strictly tonal stuff and I think it is a tremendously exciting work," he says. Undeterred by the £10,000 plus cost, he would now like to commission more work from other musicians.

Close to home

WHEN Michael Heseltine spoke of his Challenger initiative to combat inner city crime at the Chartered Institute of Building's annual dinner at the Guildhall last night, he may have seen a



"Probably one of the European Royals"

little gentle nudging on the top table. Heseltine, the guest speaker, had been amused to learn that two weeks ago the CIB increased its own security by installing an automatic barrier at the entrance to its Ascot headquarters, even though it had never been burgled. A week later, thieves struck, taking two cars, one a pool car, the other belonging to the CIB's deputy chief executive, Peter Vangucci.

Return trip

ROGER Seelig, spotted at Terence Conran's new restaurant, Le Pont de la Tour, on Thursday, was again out celebrating on Friday. Seelig, accompanied by his former co-defendant Lord Spens and several of their defence barristers, turned up at the Balls Brothers wine bar in Hays Galleria, near Southwark Crown Court, in the afternoon, and stayed for more than an hour. They all — save Lord Spens, who can't stand the stuff and stuck resolutely to his customary vodka and

CAROL LEONARD

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 19 1902

[Handwritten signature]

Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 90.6
(day's range 89.6-90.8)

Argentina austral*	1.7355-1.7384	Australia	1.3276-1.3285
Australia dollar	2.3278-2.3307	Austria	11.55-11.56
Bahrain dinar	0.657-0.665	Belgium (Com)	33.82-33.83

Brazil cruzeiro	2599.80-2601.65	Canada	1.1893-1.1
Cyprus pound	0.799-0.809	Denmark	6.3650-6.3
Finland marka	7.8575-7.9175	France	5.5920-5.5
Greece drachma	331.15-334.35	Germany	1.6470-1.6
U.S. dollar	100.00-100.00		

Hong Kong dollar	13.8105-13.8204	Hong Kong	1.7630-1.7635
India rupee	45.23-45.63	Ireland	1.6220-1.6225
Kuwait dinar KD	0.5105-0.5165	Italy	1.235-0.1235
Malaysia ringgit	4.5445-4.5525	Japan	127.80-127.85
Mexico peso	53.91-54.91	Malaysia	2.6320-2.6325

New Zealand dollar	3.2408-3.2488
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.55-6.63
Singapore dollar	2.8829-2.8864
S Africa rand (fin)	6.2535-6.3710
Switzerland franc	1.4842-1.4862
Thailand baht	2.3920-2.3940
Netherlands	1.8520-1.8540
Norway	6.4375-6.4400
Portugal	141.25-141.35
Singapore	1.4442-1.4462

S Africa rand (corn).....	4.9500-4.9582	Spain	103.08-103.08
U A E dirham	6.40-6.48	Sweden	5.9625-5.9625
Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank.		Switzerland	1.4870-1.4870

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Sterling Money Rates:	10 ¹⁵ -10 ¹⁶ ₁₆	10 ¹⁶ ₁₆ -10 ¹⁶ ₁₆	10 ¹⁶ ₁₆ -10 ¹⁶ ₁₆	10 ¹⁶ ₁₆ -10 ¹⁶ ₁₆	10 ¹⁶ ₁₆ -10 ¹⁶ ₁₆
Interbank:	10 ¹⁵ ₁₆ -10 ¹⁶ ₁₆	10 ¹⁶ ₁₆ -10 ¹⁶ ₃₂	10 ¹⁶ ₃₂ -10 ¹⁶ ₃₂	10 ¹⁶ ₁₆ -10 ¹⁶ ₁₆	10 ¹⁶ ₁₆ -10 ¹⁶ ₁₆

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rates Feb 26, 1992 to Mar 24, 1992 Scheme I: 11.75%, Schemes II & III: 12.0
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Currency	2 day	1 week	3 month	6 month	1 year
Dollar	41-3 1/2	41-3 1/2	41-3 1/2	41-3 1/2	41-3 1/2

Denchemark	9 ¹¹ ₁₀ -9 ⁷ ₁₀	9 ¹¹ ₁₀ -9 ⁷ ₁₀	9 ⁵ ₁₀ -9 ² ₁₀	9 ⁵ ₁₀ -9 ² ₁₀	9 ⁴ ₁₀ -9 ¹ ₁₀
French Franc	10 ¹⁰ ₁₀ -9 ⁴ ₁₀	10 ¹⁰ ₁₀ -9 ⁴ ₁₀	10 ¹⁰ ₁₀ -9 ⁴ ₁₀	10 ¹⁰ ₁₀ -9 ⁴ ₁₀	10 ¹⁰ ₁₀ -9 ⁴ ₁₀
Swiss Franc	7 ⁵ ₁₀ -7 ⁴ ₁₀	7 ⁵ ₁₀ -7 ⁴ ₁₀	7 ⁵ ₁₀ -7 ⁴ ₁₀	7 ⁵ ₁₀ -7 ⁴ ₁₀	7 ⁵ ₁₀ -7 ⁴ ₁₀
Wine	5 ⁵ ₁₀ -5 ⁴ ₁₀	5 ⁵ ₁₀ -5 ⁴ ₁₀	5 ⁵ ₁₀ -5 ⁴ ₁₀	5 ⁵ ₁₀ -5 ⁴ ₁₀	5 ⁵ ₁₀ -5 ⁴ ₁₀

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England gamble with Lamb

Fairbrother convinced the men who matter, and Eng-



Someone to lean on: Lamb gets a helping shoulder from Laurie Brown, the physiotherapist, yesterday.

There was nothing gentle or old-fashioned about the cricket, however. The concept of a friendly match is anathema to Australians; hence, we had Steve Waugh, represent-

ENGLAND PARTY: G A Gooch (capt), I T Botham, P A J De Freitas, N H Fairbrother, G A Hick, R K Illingworth, A J Lamb, C C Lewis, D R Pringle, D A Reeve, G C Small, R A Smith, A J Stewart, P C R Turner.

Richardson claims coach is needed

He said the West Indies Cricket Board was moving towards the appointment of a coach, but questioned the timing, saying it was a mistake to go into the Cup competition without one.

SCORES: Sydney, Australia 277 for 4 (D Boon 104; 50 overs); New South Wales 271 for 8 (B Reid 4 for 37; 50 overs). Rotorua, New Zealand v Zimbabwe, abandoned because of rain.

Report explores muddy waters

BRIAN CLARKE

Caged salmon held in the salmon farms off the Scottish, Irish and Norwegian coasts are fed on these pellets. So there is every likelihood that the food chain on which a declining population of wild fish depends is being eroded to feed at least some of the fish in the salmon farmers' cages.

On some rivers, the spawnings have actually been observed and some farm salmon were seen to choose the same places in

The progress of this and other studies—and the behaviour of the wild fish themselves over the next few years—will be watched with apprehension as well as interest, on both sides of the divide.

Slow running could be costly

This time he took the New Zealanders by storm. To me the special dispensation, whereby he was allowed to complete the pantomime season before joining the England party in New Zealand, was astonishing, but he is here now and at Christchurch he greatly cheered up a miserably cold day.

A full England side, if injuries allow one to take the field, could be expected to bat better than most of its World Cup rivals, with a not unreasonable expectation of runs almost all the way down the order. The bowling has yet to be tested under pressure, and, now that the white ball is swinging more than it used to, the concept of playing two spinners, Tufnell and Illingworth, is not being espoused quite as keenly as it was.

I am a little concerned at the prospect of depicting four

ones into two or three into four — or at Adelaide, to the longest straight boundary in the world, four into five.

□ **Adelaide:** David Hookes, who needs 48 runs from two matches to become the leading run-scorer in the Sheffield Shield, is to retire next month. Hookes, aged 36, one of the most flamboyant stroke-makers in the game, scored the fastest first-class hundred in terms of balls received (34 balls v Victoria in 1982-3). He played 23 Tests, between 1977 and 1985, scoring 1,306 runs at an average of 34.31. (*Agencies*)

Crowe is in good company

1988-9 Northern Districts claimed a share of the Shell Trophy with Central Districts after successfully chasing 371 to beat Wellington on the last day of the competition. One of their match-winners was Hick's successor, Matthew Maynard, the Glamorgan batsman, who hit 102.

Even if Benn is more experienced, with 33 contests and 28 knockouts to Sherry's 20 bouts and eight stoppages, the Canadian's performance against Eubank makes him as live an "opponent" as one can get. For Benn's sake, let us hope he is not too lively.

Sherry is a good test for Benn. When Sherry met Eubank, he was floored in the fourth round but got up, carried the fight to Eubank and

BOXING

Benn ready to stake claim

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

If Sherry has come to win, he could pose problems for Benn. According to Pepe Correa, his trainer, Sherry has studied tapes of Benn's bouts. "You can throw Benn's right hand out of the window," Correa said.

Perhaps they have seen the wrong tapes. These days Benn, realizing he is an easy target if he goes in swinging, relies on the jab as an effective

□ **Vinny Pazienza**, the World Boxing Association junior middleweight champion, plans to defend his title by the end of the year, despite fracturing two vertebrae in a car accident in November.

“I’m going to beat this thing,” Pazienza said. “I’m doing better than anybody

VOLLEYBALL

Coventry Riga steal a rare set from Malory

BY RODDY MACKENZIE

Malory are concerned about knee injuries to their English internationals, Richard Dobell and Stuart Dunn, who missed last weekend's match and are doubtful for Saturday's Royal Bank of Scotland English Cup semifinal at **Speedwell Rucanor**.

"Richard's injury is a day-to-day thing and we'll just

In the women's first division, **Woolwich Brixton**, the leaders, dropped only their third set of the season in their 15-4, 14-16, 15-7, 15-6 win over **Trafford** at home. Brixton, also coached by Williams, meet **Trafford** again in the cup semi-final on Sunday.

BRIDGE

England in control of home series

At the Stratford Congress, the Victor Ludorum prize was won by the Middlesex couple, Dennis and Celia Oram.

BY PETER BARNARD

Webb's try had the men and women in the room where I watched the game on their feet. An Irishman, a Welshman and a well-known Georgie actor-writer, who insists on talking about the "real game" but still enjoys rugby union, made up the pack. None stayed sitting, either, as the referee dismissed two Frenchman.

SPORT ON TELEVISION

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Someone should have warned the French before the game that, whoever in this world you bully, you will not bully an Ulster schoolteacher,

It was disappointing for the two-man bobsleigh team but, watching them, I was struck by how like golf the bobsleigh skill is.

I am not trying to be funny but, just as in golf, one shot,



Starmer-Smith: quoted

In that time, he never touched the ball. My question is this. Can you think of any other ball game where it would be possible to go an entire playing career and never actually touch the ball the other guys are playing with?

Starnes-Smith quoted

Design advances mean all is not as it seems in the world of women's figure skating



Fashion forerunners: early designs, from the 1930s, left, and the 1940s -

Changing face of ice maidens

FROM JOHN HENNESSY
IN ALBERTVILLE

THE French have given the world an expression for it, *trompe-l'œil*. What you see in the women's figure skating, which starts today, is not what you get. Areas of bare flesh seem to be on display; the skaters wearing less and less. But do not trust the evidence of your eyes. Flesh-coloured chiffrons enables costumes not only, apparently, to defy gravity but also to preserve the modesty of attire required by the International Skating Union (ISU).

The advance, if that is the word, of the costume's art is all part of the more professional approach to skating nowadays, fostered by beckoning professionalism in the wake of widespread television exposure. The theatrical presentation and specially prepared music have added to the package.

For all the zest for innovation in dress design, though, it may be that

the summit has been reached by the outfit commissioned, on behalf of Surya Bonaly, *la perle noire* of France, for Friday night's free skating. It has been designed by Christian Lacroix at the breathtaking cost of 125,000 francs (about £13,000), thanks to her sponsors. So far we have been denied even a view of the sketch. As an aperitif, Lacroix has also kitted Bonaly out for tonight's original programme.

Things have changed spectacularly since the days, little more than three decades ago, when competitions were held on outdoor rinks, which required more substantial attire. Men would wear suits with long underwear; the women a long-sleeved woollen top, skirt or at best the knee and stockings of heavy material.

Tracing six compulsory figures, as they had to do in those days, often in an icy blast, was a test of hardiness, as well as technique. Even further back, recreational

women skaters had to resort to wearing furs.

Coming indoors was soon, by chance, followed by colour television and the availability of lightweight stretch fabrics. Then came more dramatic presentations and that called for new thinking.

"It would be ridiculous," Betty Callaway, mentor of Torvill and Dean, says, "for a man to interpret a ballet sequence wearing trousers. He has to have tights."

In the women's figure skating, beginning tonight, there are 29 entrants, but for all practical purposes 27 of them will be aiming for the bronze medal. Kristi Yamaguchi and Midori Ito seem destined to battle for the gold medal.

Yamaguchi, an American of Japanese descent, is the world champion, while Ito, of Japan, held that title three years ago. One jump, Ito's triple axel, could prove crucial. It is the one element that is beyond the reach of Yamaguchi.



Elegance on ice: Katarina Witt in modern attire

Compagnoni and Tomba achieve Italian double

FROM DAVID POWELL
IN VAL D'ISÈRE

THE sky was a vibrant blue yesterday, the way Alberto Tomba likes it, and the Italian folk hero of skiing took advantage of the change in weather here to enter the history books. He became the first competitor to retain an Olympic Alpine title, after a thrilling battle with Marc Girardelli in the giant slalom.

Even so, he may not be the first Italian to win two skiing gold medals at these Winter Games. Two hours before Tomba's triumph, Deborah Compagnoni removed the women's super-giant slalom gold medal from the clutches of Carole Merle, on whom the host nation had pinned its hopes of a first skiing victory.

Today, Compagnoni skis the discipline at which she is most consistent, the giant slalom, and tomorrow, in the slalom, Tomba has to wait until Saturday for his attempt to make history almost impossible to repeat. By winning the slalom, he can

become the first to retain two titles at successive Olympics.

Compagnoni's success is an extraordinary story of triumph over adversity. The two knee operations she has had in the last four years seem trivial set against what happened in October 1990.

In pain, she was rushed to hospital by her father. After intestinal surgery, she was told that had she arrived 20 minutes later, she would probably have died. Five months further on, she was skiing again; three weeks ago, in a World Cup super-giant slalom, she achieved her first victory. Yesterday's was her second.

Tomba's was the one that mattered to Italy and the Olympics. The gold medal, which had been in danger of being buried in a snow storm of anonymity.

Petra Kronberger had resisted by winning the women's combined and Tomba came to her assistance. The four other events had been won by skiers of small reputation.



Tomba, though, is different. He courts attention wherever he goes and, on this occasion, he had with him a personal entourage of nine.

Coach, assistant coach, physical conditioner, masseur, doctor, ski service man, psychologist, manager, and Cina Marchese, the International Management Group's leading man in Italy. Marchese will be rubbing his hands, and not from the cold.

The shortness of the course

was not perfect for Tomba but the weather was. His record shows that his worst races come in adverse conditions and, for eight days before yesterday, snow and wind had prevailed.

He watched on television from the mountain-top restaurant at Compagnoni, aged 21, upstaged Merle. When it came to his turn, the knees on which he had been having laser treatment stood the test.

Girardelli, the overall World Cup champion who had been out of form but now has two silver medals from these Games, was unfortunate to find Tomba at his brilliant best.

The field was swollen to the point of obesity, 133 in number. So poor were the tail-enders that Raymond Karyuz, of Libya, managed to make up the minute separating each competitor at the start gate to overtake Hassan El Mahta, of Morocco.

But there was only ever going to be one winner. We all knew who that would be: the press conference organisers. At previous conferences, simultaneous translation had been given in several languages. Until it came to Tomba.

"We did not think it would be necessary to have an Italian translator," they announced, calling a journalist from the floor to repeat, none too accurately, Tomba's words. Now that Tomba has won in France for the first time, perhaps the locals will be ready for him on Saturday.

Sprint skaters lack drive to match Heiden

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

A generous helping of dedication and a dash of genetics is the recipe for a speed skater to win all five gold medals at the Winter Olympics, according to Eric Heiden, of the United States, who accomplished the feat at the 1980 Games.

Heiden, a television commentator for the Albertville Games, said that a skater needed luck with form and health to take all five golds, but he rejected the notion that competitors were now too specialised for his performance to be repeated.

He views that argument as a lame excuse from skaters who lack the dedication required for multiple success.

"If you want to be a good sprinter you need the right genes. I don't think there is any substitute for having the right parents," Heiden said. "But if you train hard, you can skate a good 5,000 and 10,000 metres. A lot of the sprinters are lazy. A lot have been very successful with minimum amounts of training."

Heiden, aged 33, has mixed emotions while commenting. "Watching a great race like Sunday's 1,500 metres [won by Johan-Ølav Koss, of Norway] I got the itch to go back down there," he said.

But the feeling quickly passed. "I still enjoy having a couple of turns on the rink or skating on a lake, but competing is over for me."

The tall, immensely powerful Heiden quit the sport soon after his Olympic triumph.

"I really had lost a lot of the mental toughness it takes to be a good skater after those Games," he said.

He channelled his competitive streak and athletic ability into cycling, becoming the United States professional champion in 1985 and competing in the Tour de France the following year. He put his bicycle in the garage in 1987 to focus on his medical studies, qualifying as a doctor last year.

He now works in Sacramento and plans to specialise in orthopaedics.

But he has fond memories of the 1980 Games in Lake Placid. Heiden thought he might place in the top three over all five events, but did not dare to imagine that he would sweep the board.

"After I had won the first race, the 500 metres, the pressure of winning was gone. I was much more relaxed, more focused on what I had to do."

Heiden set Olympic records at every distance in 1980, but his name has been wiped from the record books with the advent of ultra-fast indoor ice halls. "I think I still hold the track record at the Bialystok stadium in Oslo — but that's only because they don't skate there now."

He is relieved his celebrity status was short-lived. "The name may ring a bell but no one recognises me," he said.

"It's great because I'd hate to have to walk around in dark glasses all the time."

RUGBY UNION

England prosper with relaxed mental approach

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE ugliness of the closing stages of England's game with France on Saturday tended to obscure the virtues of so much that had gone before, both English and French. But the quality will not have been lost on the Welsh management, whose team now stands between England and a second successive grand slam; both countries name their sides on Tuesday for the game at Twickenham on March 7.

The Welsh will have noted the facility with which England now score points, even when they are not dominating. Don Rutherford, the Rugby Football Union's technical director, who has been associated with international rugby since 1960, either as player or administrator, believes that the England XV is breaking new ground.

"We are obviously now in a situation where we can score and we know how to score," Rutherford said. "I have never seen an English side take the chances that this one does. They are a new breed. We can be hanging on to the ropes, we ride the punches then we see the opportunity and literally deliver a knock-out punch of our own. I have never seen that in any other group, going back over 30 years."

The boxing metaphor may not be entirely apt in the light of the two French suspensions, but it makes a vivid point. Moreover, England have a more relaxed mental approach since playing Australia in November which Will Carling, the captain, acknowledges. "It is an advance from the World Cup," he said. "We are getting very close to what the All Blacks achieved in their unbeaten four-year period."

Rutherford also points to the number of England players in good positions near the ball "either when the opposition makes a mistake or from a situation of our own choosing." He added: "They can all handle the ball, too. When two French players collided there were backs and forwards available so that you had people like Carling and Pears and Moore making the running for Underwood, with others like Richards in the offing."

"That hasn't just happened. We have been working on this for four or five years. Fitness comes into it — there wouldn't be so many people round the ball if we weren't running fit — but it's also concentration on ball skills in tight situations."

Defensively, too, England are a greatly-improved side. Carling admits the mistakes his players made in the first half in Paris but also their ability to recover. England's tackling has been fearsome at times, though not quite as fearsome against the French, whose power and pace is comparable to that of Australian and New Zealand players.

"We learned a lot from the Australians last summer," Rutherford said. "They are very powerful runners and the game of the future is about power. It's nothing to do with height, but with the power-weight ratio. If you can tackle your weight, or a bit more, that will be reflected in the way you play."

Pierre Berbizier, the French coach, may find the appointment of a pack leader a necessary step before the game with Scotland. Last Saturday's pack included no nominated leader, direction being left — as is so often the French way — to Fabien Galthie at scrum half. Thus Galthie, aged 22 and a student winning only his eighth cap, found every responsibility devolving upon him when Philippe Sella went off injured, which may have contributed to the final catastrophic ten minutes.

Ireland's selectors meet tomorrow to review a disastrous season: they have called a squad weekend for March 7 and 8, when they are likely to confirm the team for the final championship match, against France on March 21. Philip Matthews, their captain, has denied he is considering stepping down.

Alliance urges financial aid

BY DAVID HANDS

THE four leading southern-hemisphere countries, meeting in Sydney last weekend, formalised the standing of the Southern Hemisphere Rugby Alliance. Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and Argentina will next meet in February 1993.

Their combined effect, however, is immediate. They have agreed to recommend a system of financial compensation for countries taking part in the World Cup, which would involve money being paid to teams eliminated in qualifying rounds and a lump sum for all participants apart from the hosts.

That recommendation will go before the International Rugby Settlement, the trust established by the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) to develop rugby union worldwide, which will probably meet next month. The intention of the southern-hemisphere countries is to assist the poorer rugby-playing nations to prepare properly for future World Cups.

Should the IRFB, at its

annual meeting in Wellington in April, agree proposed law changes (including the revised points-scoring system of five for a try and two for a dropped goal), then Australia and New Zealand will adopt them during the All Blacks' tour in July. That could lead to a somewhat anomalous situation if Scotland and Ireland (who tour Australia and New Zealand respectively in May) do so under the old values. Fundamental change midway through a season does not seem to have a great deal to recommend it.

All four countries will support New Zealand's proposal that coaches be allowed on to the field at half-time during internationals to address their players. That seems to me a retrograde step, taking responsibility from the captain and removing initiative from the players.

Canterbury, the New Zealand kit manufacturers who equipped New Zealand, Australia and Western Samoa in the World Cup, have signed a £25,000 deal with Wasps.

Geoghegan may not make Ireland tour

BY PETER BILLS

IRELAND, contemplating last place in the five nations championship after their third defeat of the season, yesterday received more bad news.

Simon Geoghegan, their inspirational wing, said that he may miss the Irish tour of New Zealand in May due to pressure of studies.

Ireland are making an eight-match tour between May 13 and June 6 and Geoghegan was regarded as an essential ingredient as the Irish seek an improvement in their fortunes. The London Irish player said yesterday: "I am not at all sure I will be able to go. I have so many commitments around that time because I shall be preparing for my examinations in July."

Geoghegan is studying at the Guildford Law School and is already concerned at

the amount of time he has lost due to rugby commitments. He is taking an intensive course which requires nine examinations at the end. He said: "I have probably lost seven weeks from this season alone, five of them during the World Cup."

"I find I am fighting a losing battle as regards balancing the demands of work and rugby. And the situation will only get worse if as has been suggested League matches are brought in soon on a home and away basis each season. Whether I can spare the time to spend another five weeks away from my studies is doubtful."

Geoghegan will not make a final decision on whether to tour until after Ireland's last game in the five nations' championships, against France in Paris on March 21. But he concedes such a tour is a great attraction to him.

WINTER OLYMPICS RESULTS

Nordic skiing

Combined team event

(Courschevel)

1988 winners: West Germany. FINAL RESULTS: 1. Japan (M. Kitahara, T. Kondo, K. Ogawa), 6:45.1pts, the 23min 36.5sec; 2. Norway, 6:59.8, 1:16.48.5, 3. Austria, 6:59.8, 1:25.48.5, 4. United States, 6:59.8, 1:25.48.5, 5. Czechoslovakia, 6:59.8, 1:25.48.5, 6. Switzerland, 6:59.8, 1:25.48.5, 7. Finland, 6:59.8, 1:25.48.5, 8. Italy, 6:59.8, 1:25.48.5, 9. Canada, 6:59.8, 1:25.48.5, 10. South Korea, 6:59.8, 1:25.48.5, 11. United Team, 6:59.8, 1:25.48.5, 12. Spain, 6:59.8, 1:25.48.5, 13. Slovenia, 6:59.8, 1:25.48.5, 14. Slovenia, 6:59.8, 1:25.48.5, 15. Slovenia, 6:59.8, 1:25.48.5, 16. Slovenia, 6:59.8, 1:25.48.5, 17. Slovenia, 6:59.8, 1:25.48.5, 18. Slovenia, 6:59.8, 1:25.48.5, 19. Slovenia, 6:59.8, 1:25.48.5, 20. Slovenia, 6:59.8, 1:25.48.5, 21. Slovenia, 6:59.8, 1:25.48.5, 22. Slovenia, 6:59.8, 1:25.48.5, 23. Slovenia, 6:59.8, 1:25.48.5, 24. Slovenia, 6:59.8, 1:25.48.5, 25. Slovenia, 6:59.8, 1:25.48.5, 26. Slovenia, 6:59.8, 1:25.48.5, 27. Slovenia, 6:59.8, 1:25.48.5, 28. 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GOLF

ONLY WORLD RANKINGS: 1, J. Norman (GB), 15.87 (points average, 2, F. Lide (USA), 15.73, 3, J. Czapka (Sp), 14.99, 4, S. Baksterna (US), 14.24, 5, J. Anger (Ger), 13.31; 6, F. Couples (US), 13.04, 7, G. Norman (Aust), 12.36, 8, P. Stewart (US), 11.89; 9, P. Zimog (US), 11.82, 10, M. McNulty (Pzm), 9.53

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 19 1992

Taylor springs a surprise by omitting the England captain for the international against France

Lineker is left on the bench

By STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

GRAHAM Taylor has made some bizarre decisions in his capacity as the manager of England over the last 18 months but none of them compares to his latest move. The unforeseen omission of his captain, Gary Lineker, for the international match against France tonight has been greeted with widespread astonishment.

No one had predicted that Rob Jones would complete an extraordinarily rapid ascent or that Nigel Clough would be recalled but at least their inclusions were welcome and logical. The exclusion of Lineker is neither.

Following Taylor's explanation is akin to walking through the maze at Hampton Court. A week after stating categorically that it would be unwise to leave out the nation's leading scorer, he now considers it preferable to develop a potentially striking partnership between David Hirst, of Sheffield Wednesday, and Alan Shearer, of Southampton.

Nine months after declaring that he would rather not substitute his captain, he has reduced him to the unprecedented indignity of sitting on the bench at the start. Lineker himself was stunned to hear that he had been dropped for the first time since becoming an established international six years ago.

He has effectively paid a humiliating price for his own honesty. Rather than concealing his intention to retire at the end of the European championship finals in June, he informed Taylor. It was poignant that Lineker, though apparently hurt by his temporary dismissal, should yesterday maintain a diplomatic silence.

"In business, when someone tells you that he is resigning in three months, you either tell him to go or you sort somebody out to take his

ENGLAND: C Woods (Sheffield Wednesday), A Jones (Liverpool), M Keown (Aston Villa), M Wright (Liverpool), D Walker (Nottingham Forest), S Pearce (Nottingham Forest, capt), N Webb (Manchester United), N Clough (Nottingham Forest), G Thomas (Crystal Palace), A Shearer (Southampton), D Hirst (Sheffield Wednesday). Substitutes to be announced.

FRANCE: G Rousset (Lyon), M Amoros (Marseille), J Angloma (Marseille), B Sot (Marseille), S Casari (Marseille), L Blanc (Nîmes), D Deschamps (Marseille), L Fernandez (Cannes), J-P Papin (Marseille), C Perez (Paris Saint-Germain), E Cantona (Leeds United), Substitutes to be confirmed: F Silvestre (Sochaux), J-P Durrand (Marseille), C Cocard (Auxerre), A Simba (Paris Saint-Germain), P Omata (Marseille).

place," Taylor said. He claimed that "it was not a bad thing to play this team" — a surprise package — against a nation drawn in the same group in Sweden. That did not make convincing sense, either.

Although Taylor stressed that Lineker is not "under threat", his future is evidently more limited than even he thought. So are his chances of scoring the four goals he requires to surpass Bobby Charlton's record of 49.

Since it must be presumed that Lineker will lead the attack in the summer, it would surely have been more worthwhile trying either Shearer or, preferably, Hirst, with him.

Alan Smith, recently his most regular ally, failed to recover from a dead leg and was ruled out of contention.

An experimental spearhead was last fashioned in 1984, coincidentally against France in Paris.

At least the fresh components, Brian Stein and Paul Walsh, were club colleagues at Luton Town and not strangers to each other.

Nevertheless, the combination was such an obvious failure that neither was ever picked again.

Hirst, a naturally left-footed forward making his second full appearance, and Shearer, a right-footed novice, will not even have the



Face of the future: Shearer prepares for tonight's international at an England training session

Shearer steps forward

By LOUISE TAYLOR

IF ALAN Shearer's first appearance on the international stage proves half as dramatic as his domestic entrance, Wembley will be in for a treat tonight. Four years ago, aged 17 and earning £35 per week, Shearer scored three goals against Arsenal on his first team debut for Southampton.

A transfer valuation of £4 million is testimony to the fact that he has barely looked back since. Thirteen goals in 11 appearances for the England Under-21s and 17 this season for Southampton, the first division's bottom side, are proof of that.

Jan Brannfoot, the Southampton manager, who once coached under Graham Taylor at Lincoln City and Lawrie McMenemy at The Dell, has no doubt supplied the England management with glowing references. It was McMenemy who spirited Shearer away from his native Newcastle, and Newcastle's loss was Southampton's gain. As Brannfoot put it: "Alan is worth an awful lot of points a season to this club. He never fades or hides, he is a grafter who is full of aggression and enthusiasm for his work. He is ideal to work with, and is going to get an awful lot

Alan Shearer

Born: Newcastle, 13.8.70.
Height: 5ft 11in.
Weight: 11st 3lb.
International honours:
Under-21: 12 appearances, 13 goals.
Career: Joined Southampton as trainee, signed professional forms in April 1989. At 17 years 240 days, the youngest player to score a first division hat-trick, on his full debut in 4-2 defeat of Arsenal, April 1988.

ing references. It was McMenemy who spirited Shearer away from his native Newcastle, and Newcastle's loss was Southampton's gain. As Brannfoot put it: "Alan is worth an awful lot of points a season to this club. He never fades or hides, he is a grafter who is full of aggression and enthusiasm for his work. He is ideal to work with, and is going to get an awful lot

better. He has bottle and timing."

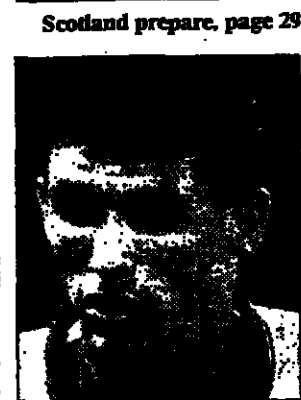
If Shearer's rise has been rapid, that of Rob Jones has been meteoric. Aged 20, the full-back joined Liverpool from Crewe Alexandra — the club which also produced David Platt and Geoff Thomas — for £300,000 last September.

Born in Wrexham, his only previous international experience is two appearances for England youth, but he is following in the footsteps of his father who played twice for England in 1950, while also a Liverpool player.

By comparison, Martin Keown is, at 25, a veteran. The Everton central defender has saved the best football of his career for this season and is fulfilling the potential that persuaded the Merseyside club to pay £750,000 for his services three years ago.

Rob Jones

Born: Wrexham, 5.11.71.
Height: 5ft 11in.
Weight: 11st.
International honours:
Youth: 2 appearances.
Career: Joined Liverpool from Crewe in September 1991 for £300,000. His grandfather, Bill Jones, also played for Liverpool and was awarded two England caps in 1950. Made his League debut for Crewe against Darlington, aged 16, having joined them as a trainee.



Scotland prepare, page 29

Wembley warning

A CROWD of between 50,000 and 60,000 is expected for the international against France at Wembley tonight, when tickets will be on sale at the turnstiles (Louise Taylor writes).

With the construction yet to be completed of a covered walkway connecting Wem-

bley Park underground station and the stadium approaches, the tube is closed to football supporters. Wembley asks them to use either the British rail station near the Conference Centre, Wembley Central station, or to come by car. Tickets are available from £22.



PRODUCT RECALL

- 1990 SANTINI BIANCO (WHITE) 75CL
- 1990 SANTINI PINOT GRIGIO (WHITE) 75CL
- 1990 SANTINI SOAVE (WHITE) 75CL
- 1990 SANTINI SOAVE (WHITE) 1.5 LITRE
- 1990 SANTINI VALPOLICELLA (RED) 75CL
- 1990 SANTINI VALPOLICELLA (RED) 1.5 LITRE
- 1990 SANTINI BARDOLINO (RED) 75CL
- 1989 SANTINI BARDOLINO (RED) 1.5 LITRE

There is a possibility that the above wines do not meet

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As a precaution stocks of these wines have been removed from display.

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INVOLVED IN THIS RECALL

DLV confident of Krabbe evidence

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

KATRIN Krabbe, the double world sprint champion, had a first meeting with her lawyers yesterday to work on her appeal against a four-year ban imposed by the German athletics federation (DLV) for allegedly being involved in manipulating a drugs test during a training session in South Africa last month.

Legal experts here say that, ironically, her most promising defence is that she is now said to have been guilty of a similar manipulation of a test in Germany last year. Her lawyers are expected to argue that by failing to act on that first test, the DLV either condoned what was going on then or else made a mistake in the analysis.

Jos Hermens, Krabbe's Dutch manager, insists that the evidence against her is flimsy, concocted by west German authorities to discredit an east German star. In her only interview since the

ban, Krabbe said: "I just can't fathom it and say over and over again: we are innocent."

The federation is confident that no defence based on legal or technical grounds will be accepted by the courts. The DLV remains convinced that the tests carried out on the samples in Cologne were accurate and that Krabbe and the two other athletes banned with her, Silke Moeller and Grit Breuer, must at least have been aware that manipulation was going on.

According to a DLV spokesman, the most promising defence might be to claim that the ban constituted a "berufsverbot" — an order to prevent her from following her chosen career — and that she would lose financially by not being able to run.

The banned athletes have engaged a large Frankfurt legal firm experienced in west German courts.

Sky is the limit in TV rights

BRITISH Sky Broadcasting's determination to be a leading player in sport yesterday brought criticism from the BBC and MPs, who tabled an Early Day Motion complaining that only those with satellite dishes or cable television will be able to watch the cricket World Cup, which begins in Australasia on Friday night.

Throughout the month-long tournament, the BBC — traditionally the home of England's international cricket — and ITV will be restricted to one minute of recorded highlights during news bulletins.

Two years ago, Sky successfully broadcast the Test matches between England and West Indies in the Caribbean. A surge in the sales of satellite dishes followed — 125,000 systems were installed during the series.

Between February 21 and March 25, Sky Sports will broadcast 25 games live. The BBC, with all its other commitments, could never have matched such an output but

would have liked the chance to show extended highlights.

Sir Michael Checkland, the director-general of the BBC, said yesterday that he was still hoping BSkyB would release footage. "They must learn to give as well as to take," he said.

The latest dispute further demonstrates how sport has become a battleground for the television powers. The BBC may have lost this skirmish but Jonathan Martin, head of BBC Sport, is confident: "There is a resolve to continue making the BBC a powerful, powerful player in sports television. I think we are as strong as we have ever been in history."

Greater competition has been responsible for forcing up the prices for television rights. Usually, the BBC has been able to find the money. It is spending a record £55 million this year to screen 1,600 hours of sport, including the Winter and Summer

Revolutionary bat receives approval of ICC

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

Sydney: An Australian inventor yesterday unveiled a revolutionary cricket bat in which the traditional straight handle is replaced by a curved handle, which the designer says gives batsmen more power and control.

Because the change was to the handle, and not the blade of the bat, it has been declared legal by the sport's world governing body, the International Cricket Council (ICC).

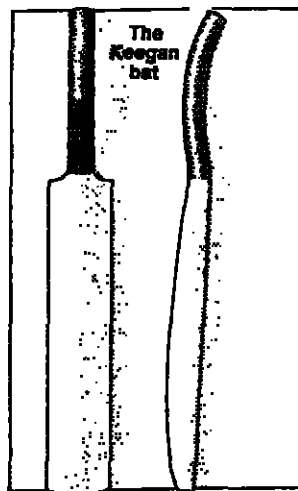
The handle of the new bat bends back away from the top of the blade, then hooks forward again, forcing the batsman's hands behind the face as the ball is played.

The laws of cricket state the bat shall be not more than 38 inches (96.5cm) in length and that the blade of the bat shall be made of wood and shall not exceed 4.4 inches (10.8cm) at the widest part. The laws make no specific reference to the handle. The new bat, designed by Sydney inventor Paul Keegan, has drawn interest from some of the game's leading players, past and present.

Richie Richardson, the West Indies captain, tried the new bat during practice at the Sydney Cricket Ground yesterday.

"It looked a bit strange when I saw it, but I thought it could be the bat of the future," he said. "I like a bat that's slightly curved, anyway, because it's better to spank the ball. But it is different and it would take a bit of getting used to."

The innovative bat was launched yesterday by the former Australian players, Doug Walters and Steve Smith. Walters said it had a "sweet



New bat: welcomed

spot" (preferred hitting zone) four times that of the normal bat. Peter Roebuck, the former Somerset batsman, gave the bat a favourable review in a Sydney newspaper.

The former Australian fast bowler, Dennis Lillee, was the last pioneer to dabble with the basic bat, unchanged for more than a century. He went in against England 12 years ago with an aluminium bat. Mike Brearley, the England captain, protested. Lillee threw the bat away in disgust and it subsequently was banned by the ICC.

Other experimental bats have been tried in England in recent seasons. A bat with a convex face, intended to assist big-hitting by causing the ball to fly at unexpected angles, was banned by MCC, the custodians of the laws of cricket; but last year MCC approved, after trials, a double-faced bat, designed to help the reserve sweep — and to last twice as long as the traditional bat.

Lamb gamble, page 26

O'Reilly cruises through heat

FROM JOHN HENNESSY IN ALBERTVILLE

WILF O'Reilly, the best hope — with all due respect — of the four-man bob team — of a British Olympic medal here, successfully negotiated the first hurdle in the short-track skating championship, in the Ice Hall where Klimova and Ponomarenko had triumphed in the ice dance the night before.

The flimsy dresses and peasant costume gave way to crash helmets and knee pads as an exciting new Olympic spectacle came into focus. It is the only Winter Olympics sport, after hockey, which is contested head to head with no reference to a clock or a panel of judges.

O'Reilly was pitched into a heat of the 1,000m contested by only three skaters, with two to count. This ought to have been a help to O'Reilly, the world champion over this specific distance, which involves 11 laps of this tiny oval.

However, he imposed his will over Lianli Li, of China, and Jae-Kun Song, of South Korea, and, unlike previous heat winners, led from start to finish.

It was a most impressive performance.

Only two of Britain's three skaters were able to get through to tomorrow's quarter-finals.

First, Nick Gooch had fallen on the sixth lap in heat two, having just forced his way comfortably into second place. He was the first faller of the evening.

Matt Jasper, in the next heat, came through with some comfort. He was content to linger in third place for five laps, and then smoothly stole the lead from Dmitri Erchov, of the CIS.

In Meribel, goalkeeper Sean Burke put Canada, the favourites for the old medal, into the Olympic ice hockey semi-finals, just saving Germany's sixth penalty in a sudden-death shoot-out.

The two teams finished 3-3 at the end of normal time. A fast, furious but scoreless ten minutes of extra time followed, leaving the outcome to be decided by the penalties.

Ice maidens, page 28

Results, page 28



ARTS
Television
detective on
the trail of
theatre cash



LIFE & TIMES

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 19 1992



MEDIA
Some human
interest please
in television
current affairs

Ireland talks abortion

Ireland is ignorant about sex; Ireland doesn't need any sex education.

Alice Thomson hears opposing views of the latest controversy in the Republic

In Ireland they prefer to talk about politics, religion or Europe than to use the A-word. It is not that they do not have strong convictions about abortion, but the issue has become so emotive and bitterly divisive that in many circles the word is now taboo.

Abortion has been illegal in the Republic of Ireland since independence. At a referendum in 1983 an amendment to the constitution protecting "the right to life of the unborn child" was approved by a two-to-one majority. Each year about 8,000 women, the majority of them under 25, make the journey across the Irish Sea to have an abortion in Britain. Successive Irish governments have ignored this traffic.

Now a 14-year-old rape victim is pregnant and the High Court in Dublin has granted the Attorney-General, Harry Whelehan, an injunction preventing the girl from having her pregnancy terminated in Britain. In his first days of office, the new prime minister, Albert Reynolds, is starting the A-word in the face. So, once again, are Irish women.

On St Valentine's night, Ireland was on the eve of a rugby international against Scotland. Kilted swiftness and roses were being generously distributed throughout Dublin. At midnight at the Pink Elephant, the in-club for the hip young Dubliner, Suzanne Murphy, 21, a Dublin sales assistant, and her friend, an unemployed model, were, by their own admission, out on the prowl. Ms Murphy thinks it is disgraceful that the girl should have been put through the case. "We are not a bunch of Catholics living in the Dark Ages anymore. Most of the young are very free thinking and believe in sex before marriage," she says. "Women should have a right to their own bodies and their own feelings. Nobody else should dictate a woman's private life. I don't think abortion should be as easy as in Britain, where you can just book an appointment like going to the dentist. But it should be available to those who have really thought about it and certainly for those who have been raped or whose lives are at risk."

John Rush, 21, a shop manager, agrees, but adds: "Dublin is very unrepresentative, it was the most liberal in the referendum. If you go out to the sticks you will find that almost everyone is anti-abortion. I feel terribly sorry for any girl who gets pregnant by mistake in some country village."

In the early hours of the morning at Suseys bar, the owner, Rohan Teehan, aged 42, is entertaining some friends. "I can't have any children of my own and it really hurts when a woman wants an abortion. They are just so sad," she says. "Family life is about

children. But this girl is still a child and you can't impose a family philosophy on her. Her life would be ruined by having a child. I would never have voted for the amendment if I thought it would come to this."

Her niece, Clodhna Quinlan is 18, and has come to stay for the weekend from County Mayo. "Women have to decide for themselves. I am at school. It would be difficult to have a child but I would cope," she says. She does not want abortion legalised in Ireland because she feels that Catholic doctors would then be obliged to deal with cases which could go against their beliefs. Her boyfriend, who was adopted, is against abortion under any circumstances. "Just because a child's parent is a rapist or under age, it shouldn't be condemned to die," he thinks.

On Saturday morning, three groups held demonstrations against the injunction on the high street among the shoppers and the rugby fans. Maxine Brady, the 23-year-old president of the Union of Students in Ireland, brought her two-year-old daughter with her. She has been one of the most vocal advocates of free information on abortion services in Britain and has helped to set up Escort, a Liverpool student volunteer organisation which provides escorts for Irish women who go to Liverpool seeking abortions. She has just had a row with a woman on a bus who spat in her face and attacked her for "helping to kill lives".

The people who come to us feel psychologically, physically or financially unable to have a child," she says. "They are not just having an abortion because they don't want a break in their career. They are so desperate for an abortion they will always find a way to pay. We are just smoothing the way."

Since the referendum, the Irish Supreme Court, the country's ultimate legal authority, has clamped down on counselling services, banning them from giving the names, addresses or telephone numbers of



Breaking old taboos: protesters on O'Connell Street in Dublin last weekend attempt to bring the issue of abortion to the attention of Saturday morning shoppers

abortion clinics. Despite this, research has shown that, among 22- to 25-year-olds, Irish women are as likely to have abortions as their European counterparts.

Miss Brady thinks the situation can only be alleviated by better education and counselling services. "There is an appalling level of ignorance about sex in Ireland. One man had been re-using the same condom. Many regret having abortions but they aren't allowed any counselling first." She adds: "This ruling will drive the issue even further under. Women's lives will be put at risk from backstreet abortions and women will be frightened of going to the police if they've been raped."

Thirty miles outside Dublin in County Kildare, Naas is a small town with both high unemployment and a high proportion of single mothers. Pat Conroy, the mother of five daughters, is having tea with some friends. Once the men have been banished from the house, the women talk passionately about abortion. They are all active in their local church. "The right to life is fundamental," Mrs Conroy says. "Every child has a soul from the moment it is conceived: a focus is not a turnip, it is a living being."

Pamela O'Neil cannot understand why a young woman cannot give the baby up for adoption if she feels she cannot cope with being a

mother. Twenty years ago adoption was commonplace, two of Mrs O'Neil's teenage children are adopted.

Now few young women consider adoption as an alternative to abortion and the Irish Adoption Society says that the number of babies coming up for adoption is minimal. "There is something wrong with the world when one mother is having an abortion in one hospital room and next door another premature baby is fighting for its life."

Catherine Maher believes the root of the problem goes further back. "There was never a problem in Ireland until people began to be promiscuous outside marriage. We need to educate people so they don't think that it is desirable. Children need to be taught about respect for life and for each other. A relationship involves love and responsibility, not just sex. All sex education does is encourage them to be promiscuous, it makes them feel sex is for free and it is not."

One of Mrs Conroy's daughters, Maria, says: "The British don't seem to understand that we are talking about a life. They are more concerned about the life of a fox than the life of a baby child and they are forcing their views on the Irish young. It doesn't matter if the focus is malformed or the mother has been raped, the child must be given the chance to survive, even if the mother's life is at risk."

There is only one dissenting voice. Maureen Connolly, the mother of five children, understands the pressures facing young women who get pregnant. She still remembers the case a few years ago when a young school teacher was hounded from her job after having an illegitimate child. "There is less of a stigma about being a single parent in Ireland now but it is still tough financially and emotionally. The Irish love children and I think we should do more to help young women to keep their babies by providing counselling, childcare facilities and finance," she says.

"I do not believe that this case

has proved us a backward country. We are at the forefront of a world movement towards greater humanity. The Americans have already begun to question abortion. Soon other countries will be following us."

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Women	4	
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Home	9	
European Arts	12	

TOMORROW
What intellectuals should read



Campaigning for free information: Maxine Brady, president of the Union of Students in Ireland

The cat that drooled over dynamite

No Valentines from the cats, again. Sometimes I wonder whether they are working as hard at this relationship as I am. Few other pets, I imagine, were lucky enough to find their Valentine's day breakfast laid out on heart-shaped trays, with the words "From Guess Who" artfully arranged in Kit-Bits around the edge. But what do I get in return? Not even a single rose. Not even a "Charming thought, dear. Must rush." Just the usual unceremonious leap through the cat-flap, the usual glimpse of the flourished furry backside, with its "Eat my shorts" connotation. Wearily I sweep up the Kit-Bits with a dustpan and brush, and try to remember whether King Lear was talking about pets when he coined the phrase about the serpent's tooth.

Of course, the world would be a distinctly different place if cats suddenly comprehended the concept of give and take — if every time you struggled home with a hundredweight of cat food and said accusingly, "This is all for you, you know," the kitties accordingly hung their heads and felt embarrassed. Imagine the scene on the garden wall: "Honestly, guys, I'd love to come out. But the old lady gave me Sheba this

SINGLE LIFE
Lynne Truss bemoans feline reluctance to play the game



can still make the best of it. With a few subtle adjustments to my original plan, I can now play a highly amusing game with the other cat which involves shouting, "Quick! Take cover! Buster's got a stick of dynamite, and we'll all be blown sky-high!" And I dive behind the sofa. It's a real hoot — especially the way the two cats pretend not to be interested. Actually, the window-cleaner

thought it was so funny that he kept smiling at me through the glass, and nodding.

I suppose all this gratitude stuff has been brought to mind because I recently purchased a very expensive cat-accessory, which has somehow failed to elicit huzzahs of appreciation. In fact, it has been completely cold-shouldered. Called a "cat's cradle", it is a special fleecy-covered cat-hammock which hooks on to a radiator. The cat is suspended in a cocoon of warmth. A brilliant invention, you might think. Any rational cat would jump straight into it. Too stupid to appreciate the full glory of my gift, however, my own cats sleep underneath it (as though it shelters them from rain), and I begin to lose patience.

Come on, kitties. I rubbed my cheek on the fleecy stuff. "Isn't this lovely? Wouldn't this make you feel like a — well, er, like an Eastern potentate, or a genie on a magic carpet, or a very fortunate cat having a nice lie-down suspended from a radiator?" However, I stopped this approach after a week of failure. Now I pull on my thick gardening gloves, grab a wriggling cat by the waist, and hold it firmly on its new bed for about 45 seconds until it breaks away.

I am reminded of a rather inadequate thing that men sometimes say to women, in an attempt to reassure them. The woman says, "I never know if you love me, Jonathan," and the man replies smoothly, "Well, I'm here, aren't I?" The sub-text to this corny evasion (which fools nobody) is a very interesting cheat — it suggests that, should the slightest thing be wrong with this man's affections, he would of course push off immediately into the wintry night, rather than spend another minute compromising his integrity at the nice fireside with cups of tea.

Having a cat, I find, makes you susceptible to this line of reasoning — perhaps because it is your only direct line of consolation. "I wonder if he loves me," you think occasionally (perhaps as you search the doormat in vain for Valentines with paw-prints on them). And then you gently lift the can-opener from its velvet cushion in the soundproofed kitchen, and with a loud ker-chunk-chunk a cat comes cannoning through the cat-flap, and skids backwards across the lino on its bum. And you think cheerfully, "Well, of course he does. I mean, he's here, isn't he?"

TOMORROW
Private Life: John Diamond



Five ways you can help save the birds this winter with the RSPB — and get a free birdtable.

- 1 Put food out regularly, as the birds will come to depend on you.
- 2 Only put out moist bread and boiled rice as, when dry, these can swell up inside birds' stomachs.
- 3 Float a child's ball in your birdbath to delay it freezing over.
- 4 Set aside an area for nettles, chidles and groundsel, to supply the seed-eaters; also, compost heaps and fallen leaves prevent frost, so birds can grub up insects.
- 5 Best of all, join the RSPB — and help us save our threatened countryside for birds and wildlife, now and in the future.

RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Beds SG19 2DL

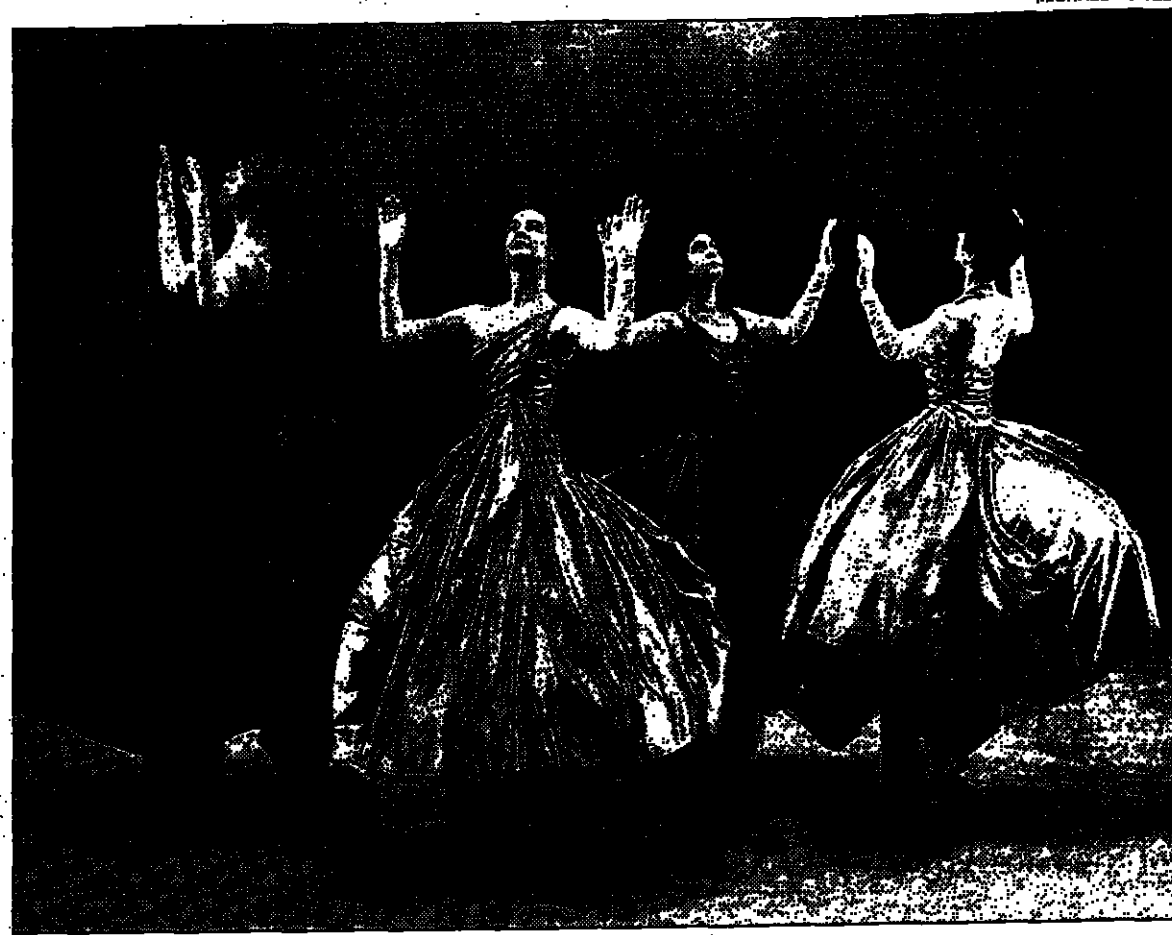
YES I want to join the RSPB this winter.

To support the RSPB's vital work, I enclose:
☐ £22 (Year's membership for two adults at one address)
☐ £10 (Year's single membership)
 Membership benefits: FREE BIRDTABLE, quarterly colour Bird magazine and five entry to over 100 RSPB nature reserves.
 (Record person's name: £3, and free gift)
 I am paying the total of £_____ by: ☐ A2423
☐ Cheque/PO (payable to RSPB) ☐ Access/Visa
 Card number: _____ Expiry date: _____
 Cardholder's signature: _____
 (Please attach address of cardholder if different from below)
 Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____ (PLEASE PRINT)
 Address _____
 Postcode _____
 Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____
 Join membership service _____
 Send to: The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds,
 FREEPOST, Sandy, Beds SG19 2BR.



Rank-and-file performers

MICHAEL POWELL



Square dancing: the all-female Cholmondeleys supported by the all-male Featherstonehaughs

DANCE
Birthday
The Place

LEA ANDERSON's new piece, *Birthday*, which ends its London run on Saturday, brings together both her groups, the all-female Cholmondeleys and the all-male Featherstonehaughs. They perform in their usual vernacular language, mixing real gestures, such as a hand stroking hair, and invented ones that have no recognisable function.

For *Birthday* — which goes on national tour after its Place season — the inspiration includes the activities of hairdressers and waitresses. I'm not sure that Anderson's observations are always as probing as her supporters make out, although it's true that, when divorced from their proper context, they can seem unsettlingly incongruous.

You can forget about grace: the effect is jerky, with the men in particular given awkward shambles that would make Frankenstein's monster look like Nijinsky.

All this would be acceptable, but for the anaemic sking out of each section and its movement. At times hardly anything happens: a thinness accentuated by the disconcerting simplicity of the stage patterns. Anderson is an obsessively tidy choreographer.

Nowhere else will you see such rigid lines and blocks performing in totalitarian union. The phrases are set boringly square on the unmissable beat of the music by her regular collaborator, Steve Blake. Abruptly rhythmic, it sometimes changes speed or features a prominent saxophone or electric organ, but otherwise it sounds the same from beginning to end.

The structure, nevertheless, has a liveliness, with one item following another, and costumes changing as rapidly as you can say Cholmondeley. The dancers successively wear tawdry robes, party clothes and petticoats — garments linked with the pretext of a birthday and its preparations (although I'm not sure where the divers' suits come in).

All these costumes are worn more

than once, as though the dramatic progression has been cut up and its segments re-assembled haphazardly. Marisa Zanotti, the birthday girl, watches the dancing or receives presents which she throws away in disgust.

Some of the jokes are mildly amusing. But only the end of the piece manages to be really impressive, with

the dancers posing in poetically absurd photographic groups such as the one in which Zanotti appeared to be levitating. Then as a finale came mad party dancing. Suddenly the grim union lines were freed and choreographic complexity glimpsed.

NADINE MEISNER

Bright and brittle

CONCERT
LPO/Rattle
Festival Hall

IN A second concert with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, Simon Rattle was joined by his wife, the soprano Elise Ross, to highlight two works in an imaginatively balanced programme. The singer had committed to memory the Polish text of the *Five Poems* by Witold Lutoslawski, and while ignorance of that tongue precludes direct response to the words, the sensibility of the vocal line could not be denied.

An instrumental ensemble confined to 21 strings with harp, piano and percussion is used mainly in blocks of *ostinato* colour in this relatively early work (1958), suffusing a matching set of miniature soundscapes on which the voice traces impressions of the sea, wind, church bells and so on. The writing takes the voice low for a soprano range, but sounded no obstacle here in the often metrical vocal phrasing.

Rather more colour would have

been welcome in the singing, as also in the emotional character and admirably pitched the soprano's feelings in Berg's *Three Scenes from Wozzeck*. She nevertheless expressed more assurance than the orchestral playing had to offer, controlled as it was with skilful purpose but somehow never quite making the layered instrumental lines cohere to either broad or subtle effect.

In the opening Prelude from Janáček's *House of the Dead*, for which the conductor has such evident enthusiasm, the playing sounded like that of an orchestra in some sort of transition, bright and brittle by turns, the strands often clear and sharply drawn but not as fully integrated and responsive as they were in the performance of the Second Symphony by Sir Colin Davis.

Here Rattle's impetuous drive from the outset knocked several minutes off the average time it takes, imparting a strange sense of anxiety to the symphonic quest as a whole, and substituting agitation for the touch of mystery in the slower second movement while pointing the links back to Tchaikovsky. After a hectic scherzo the *moderato* marking for the finale was largely ignored in reaching a hard-driven end where the orchestral strings could barely sustain.

NOEL GOODWIN

Fare deal for women

Rides, though, may well have achieved the trick. Attractive middle-aged female air officer (the excellent Jill Baker) leaves the service after 22 years and decides to set up a minicab firm. First episode: recruitment of drivers. Not easy (in a recession?). Let it pass. Several women join up, including an out-of-work actress and an Asian girl fleeing a putative arranged marriage. Also several men, one of whom brings in a lucrative courier run to Heathrow, which is short-lived on account of the fact that the packages contain drugs.

Others among the men have a habit of going sick or simply not turning up, whereas of course all the women are on time and diligent in every other way. You can see what is coming and by the end of episode one the all-girl minicab company is born. Well, yes, I

think women do tend to be more reliable than men so this crossing of yet another television junction, the one sign-posted "feminist minicab series", is by no means as jarring as might be thought. But can they find the Savoy?

The male of the species is getting his Tuesday night moment in a new series called *Men Behaving Badly*, on ITV, which may become the comedy hit of the season. It stars Harry Enfield and Martin Clunes, the former sharing a flat owned by the latter, and mostly lives on some very decent one-liners having to do with the acquiring, keeping, losing and dumping of women.

Not much sign of the new man as here, with women being talked about as if they were high mileage cars: "I've been going out with her for two years, she's worn out." These two guys had better stay out of certain minicabs.

PETER BARNARD

2 ARTS

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Karl Knight

HAILE: Peter Franz joins Stanislaw Skrowaczewski and the hall in a solid evening of Brahms. He tackles the mountainous solo part in the First Piano Concerto, and afterwards the orchestra goes to grips with the tough but inspiring First Symphony. Barbican Hall, St. Paul's, London EC2 (071-638 0691), 7.45pm.

BIG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: An ingenious piece of programming planning from the BBCSO brings together Stravinsky's 1947 ballet *Ophelia* and the 1934 melodrama *Paraphrase*. David Atherton conducts, while John Alor is the tenor (and, presumably, the speaker of Gide's elaborate text) in *Paraphrase*, for which work the orchestra is also joined by the BBC Singers and Symphony Chorus and the New London Children's Choir. Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-628 8800), 7.30pm.

LONDON MOZART PLAYERS: Oliver von Dohnányi conducts the players in a Spanish programme continuing the group's "European in Homeless" series. The programme begins with a symphony by 19th-century composer Arriaga, followed by Rodrigo's guitar concerto, *Concierto de Aranjuez*, performed by Nicola Hail, and continues with Gernard's *Allegretto* and excerpts from De Falla's ballet music. The *Three-Cornered Hat*. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-638 8891), 7.45pm.

OPERA 85: The company opens its spring tour in Sweden with a new production of Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, directed by Stephen Macdonald, designed by Lee Brownstone and conducted by her son, David Ellis. The leading role, with supporting cast including Fiona Cernoni, Julie Melnik, Jonathan

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of current theatre in London

House full, returns only

Some seats available

Seats at all prices

MAKING IT BETTER: James

Waters' adult play concerned with

identity, reality and illusion in Prague

and London; Jane Asher in an

exemplary cast of four.

THE MASTER AND MARGARITA:

A Russian comedy of Bulgakov's

novel about the devil's visit to

Moscow. Some completely lost but

others very good. Old Town Hall,

Leicester Hill, SW1 (071-223 2222).

Tues-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sun, 6pm, First

week.

THE NIGHT OF THE IGLOO:

A modernist and a superb Elmer

Adams in Thomas Williams's late

play on the effects of sexual repression.

National (Leicester), South Bank, SE1

(071-223 2222). Tonight, tomorrow,

7.30pm, mat tomorrow, 2.15pm.

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA:

Ghostly version of the old thriller: tunes

by Offenbach, Verdi and Weber but

not Lloyd Webber.

Shaftesbury, Shaftesbury Avenue,

WC2 (071-379 5369). Mon-Fri, 7.30pm,

Sat, 8.30pm, mat Thurs, Sat, Sun,

Sun, 15min.

SELF PORTRAIT: Absorbing, if at

times confusing, study of the painter

John Gwyn and the impulses behind

his portraits. Includes a new play

in the new play. Orange Tree, Clarendon

Street, Richmond (081-940 5833). Mon-Sat,

7.45pm, mat Sat, 4pm, 15min.

SO PHOTICATED LADIES: Twelve

singer-dancers whirl through the music

of 1911-1913. Includes a new play

in the new play. Orange Tree, Clarendon

Street, Richmond (081-940 5833). Mon-Sat,

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Street, Richmond (081-940 5833). Mon-Sat,

7.45pm, mat Sat, 4pm, 15min.

Tha Gallery, Wilton, London SW1

(071-223 1313). Mon-Sat, 10am-5.30pm.

Sun, 2.5-5.30pm, until May 10.

MAX KILINGER: One of the most

famous 19th-century sets of prints in

the world. 151 Hand Church Terrace

party for its unbelievably early date

(1875-80), when it looks exactly like

one of Surrealism's more worked-out

Freudian fantasies, and partly because

of its inherent quality. It embodies

Kilinger's own erotically charged

fantasies in the form of a story of a

glove lost and found and lost again. A

real chance to see the impressions of

all 10 etchings.

Wildehouse, 147 New Bond Street,

London W1 (071-628 0602). Mon-Fri,

10am-5.30pm, until March 13.

SWAN LAKE: Northern Ballet Theatre

begins a nationwide tour of Christopher

Gable's retelling of the Swan Lake

story, choreographed by American

Dennis Wayne and designed by Luz

Brotherston. Favoured more by the

audience than by our own at the Leeds

prerogative, the ballet is a disappointing

follow-up to Gable's hit version of

Romeo and Juliet last season.

Grand Theatre, 26 Church Street,

Blackpool (0253 2872), 7.30pm.

RAMBERT DANCE COMPANY: The

company arrives in Canterbury this

week performing two mixed

programmes of works including the

group's latest acquisition: dancer Mark

Bellows's first work, *Island to Island*,

premiered by the company last

November, and a revised version of

the 1984 work by artistic director Richard

Alston, notable for Richard Smith's

spectacular set design.

Canterbury, The Friars,

Canterbury (0222 767266), 7.30pm.

A SWELL PARTY: Four singers,

two pianists in flexible tribute to Cole

Porter's wit and wry melodies.

Vauxhall, The Strand, WC2 (071-638

8827). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, Sun,

2.30pm, Sat, 5.30pm, 14min.

TALKING HEADS: Patrick

Routledge and Alan Bennett excellent in

three of his monologues about the

unconscious humour and pain of

depression.

Comedy, Fenton Street, SW1 (071-587

1048). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Wed, Sat,

Sat, 4pm, 15min.

A TRIBUTE TO THE BLUES

SINCE 1928: Lively parade of tubular

blues. Good fun.

Whitaker, Whitaker, SW1 (071-837

1119). Mon-Thurs, 8.15pm, Fri, Sat,

6.15pm and 8pm.

WALLPAPER NIGHT: Fascinating

look at life and death in the world of

psychiatric hospitals by P. Eusey, a

former inmate. Show Village Translates.

100a, Prince Albert Road, 11 Prince

Road, W11 (071-235 0708). Mon-Fri,

7.30pm, 15min.

LONG RUNNERS: Aspects of

Love: Prince of Wales (071-838

5872). ... Blood Brothers: Phoenix

Theatre (071-434 1317). ... Carmen

James (071-434 1317). ... Don't

Drum for Dancer (071-434

5070). ... Five Guys

Named Music (071-434 5070). ...

Don't Drum for Dancer (071-434

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Don

All the world's a stage, at a price

THEATRE

Kenneth Rea reports on the actors and directors who must be prepared to subsidise or underwrite their own stage shows

A few months ago a well-known London fringe theatre invited me to direct a play for them. This seemed an attractive proposition, until it emerged that neither I nor the cast would be paid anything. Balancing altruism, egoism and my own financial state, I rapidly concluded that I could not afford it and we parted amicably. But where I feared to tread, others were more than happy to rush in: in fact the British theatre is virtually built on a hidden covenant whereby the workers subsidise the profession.

Examples abound of prominent actors working for a pittance in order to play exciting roles. When Deborah Warner's award-winning Royal Shakespeare Company production of *Electra* was revived recently at the Riverside Studios, people were turned away every night, yet Fiona Shaw and her fellow actors drew £180 a week.

While a new television series of *Van der Valk* makes him a household name, Barry Foster is nightly giving a bravura performance in *The Gigli Concert* at the Almeida, for £165 a week. After a five-week sell-out season at the Gate Theatre of Katie Mitchell's acclaimed production of *The Women of Troy*, the actors and director were each handed nothing except £69 towards their expenses.

Now if a group of master builders decided to construct a house, without pay, we might think they were touched by sainthood or lunacy. Yet when actors and directors exploit themselves by working for little or nothing, we accept that those are the ways of the theatre.

This is nothing new, of course. Actors have been subsidising the profession for centuries. But despite the advent of state funding, the Theatrical Arts has not got much better. The current Equity minimum wage for actors in repertory theatres is a mere £147, and that is for doing eight performances a week, plus rehearsals. Compare the average weekly wage of £236 for manual workers and £312 for non-manual workers. Even the West End minimum is only £210, though most leading actors will be earning well above that. On top of this is the fact that under a new law, young actors are taxed as

PAYE and can claim no expenses, which means that, when they are paying an agent's fee of between 12% to 15 per cent, and working away from home, some of them actually experience a loss.

While it is true that a handful of actors have become rich (one or two have earned £30,000 a week in West End musicals) hardly anyone is in the theatre for the money. At the last count, half of Equity's 46,000 membership earned no more than £5,000 a year. And at any time about 80 per cent of those members will be out of work. It is the competitiveness that helps keep wages down.

Little wonder that the morale in the profession is so low. How does it feel having to persuade a star

business, couldn't possibly afford to live on?

"In this day and age," adds Foster, "to do the kind of work you want to do you have to be willing to subsidise the theatre with more grandly financed work."

Even the National Theatre is bound by cost-cutting that makes it reliant on the kindness of those who work there. Top photographers take production photos for a third the rate they charge for West End shows. One star actor claims he can earn more in a couple of hours of voice-overs than in a couple of months at the National. And last year 650 unsolicited play scripts arrived. All were read but none reached the stage.

Paradoxically, some of the most adventurous theatres are now the ones with the least money. Because they have little to lose they can take risks that are beyond the means of the more lavishly funded theatres. The 60-seat Gate Theatre is repeatedly praised and showered with awards, yet its director Stephen Daldry runs the operation on a frayed shoestring, paying himself and two others £110 a week, forsaking marketing and putting what money there is onto the stage. Even then he cannot afford to pay the actors. But he did mount 16 new productions last year, an output that was eclipsed only by the RSC and the National.

It is unlikely, however, that the Gate will ever be funded to do the job properly. "The Gate is a minute theatre but a huge organisation," says Daldry. "At one point a couple of months ago we had 54 actors in three shows. To be able to fund the Gate and pay all those people a living wage would cost hundreds of thousands of pounds. We constantly apply for funding but the Arts Council says it can't afford to take on any more revenue clients, no matter how good you are."

But without the Gate "exploiting" everyone, the public would not have the chance to discover forgotten classics such as *Tiro de Molina's Damned for Despair* and actors would not get the opportunity to play in them. That is why those lucky enough to get it happily regard work in television or commercials as a way of subsidising a stretch on the fringe. Another



Bravura work on a budget: Barry Foster is starring in *The Gigli Concert*, for £165 a week.

reason is that a showcase in London is a good career investment. It has earned Daldry his next job as artistic director of the Royal Court and has made Katie Mitchell a director at the RSC.

But the cost of mounting a production, even in a pub theatre, is daunting. Ex-RSC actors Malcolm Freeman and Graham Watts have just set up a new company, Transpoline Productions, and their first show, an unknown Jacobean play called *A Woman is a Weathervane*, opens at the tiny Pentameters Theatre in north London tonight. The enterprise has cost them nearly £10,000 and that is without paying the actors.

How can they do it? "We're on

the dole," says Freeman, whose last job, apart from voice-overs, was in August. "If you're an actor you want to perform. And when the opportunity for something exciting comes along, you look at it very hard. Adverts may make thousands of pounds, but they don't show up well on the CV."

When Glen Goel left the title role in the West End production of *M. Butterfly* to form an Asian theatre company, Mu Lan, neither funders nor sponsors were interested. So he poured his savings into Mu Lan and kept the scale small. His latest production, *Madame Mao's Memories*, was a one-woman show featuring Tsai Chin. "Even then we had to appeal to the goodness of our families and friends for their financial support," says Goel. "Ev-

eryone involved gave their services gratis. My company manager receives no salary. I pay my expenses from my own pocket and now my savings have run out."

Like it or not, theatre is the living proof of Darwin's theories: the companies you see are the survivors. As Stephen Daldry says, "If we all started organising our lives around the money available, I think we'd stop dreaming. You have to have the ability to say it's not about the money."

Glen Goel has just received some Arts Council funding and is busy planning his next production. Malcolm Freeman is confident that he will raise his £10,000. And when he advertised for actors to work without pay, there were 700 applicants. Somehow, the show goes on.

'The Equity minimum in repertory theatres is £147 for eight performances a week, plus rehearsals'

actor to work for £165? "You don't have to persuade them. That's the awful thing about it," says the Almeida's joint-artistic director, Ian McDiarmid. "Unfortunately it's what actors expect to be paid in a situation such as ours. It's awful. Of course I wish I could afford to pay them properly, but we are spectacularly underfunded. On the other hand we know it's the only way, given the present economic climate, to do the kind of work we do, so we put up with it."

Foster, who has been at the Almeida for five months in *The Gigli Concert*, explains: "Doing Tom Murphy's play at the Almeida is nothing to do with money. Because of other work in television and films I'm able to live for five months on money which my daughters, who are in the same

Erich Segal, whose new novel is published tomorrow, talks to Michael Freedland

Portrait of an author revealed but not exposed



Erich Segal: "I am a perpetual scholar"

Erich Segal would dearly love to be remembered for his treatise on Plato. Instead, this former professor of classics at Yale is likely to go to his grave with these words as his memorial: "Love means never having to say you're sorry."

Coining the phrase made him a fortune, or at least contributed to the fortune from *Love Story*, the book and film which included this example of late-20th century philosophy. Now, with the publication tomorrow of his sixth novel, *Acts of Faith* (Hutchinson, £14.99), he is still more excited by the prospect of writing a new piece on Latin literature, which doesn't mean that he is indifferent to the concept of selling film rights.

"From your mouth to God's ears," he says when I raise the subject of those rights in his Hampstead home. He lives in Britain because he married a British woman and is the father of two British daughters. "Besides, I like England." If where he lives is not typically literary Hampstead, then neither is he. So has he sold out? "Certainly not," he says, but without rancour.

"There is no price high enough to make me sell out. I still get more pleasure writing a classical article than producing a best-seller. I am not being disingenuous, because I do appreciate the fact that I can afford to buy books that I would otherwise have to borrow from a library. I am a perpetual scholar."

This 54-year-old native of Brooklyn has had plenty of time to adjust to his current situation since he took the chance to supplement the \$3,000 he earned as a Yale lecturer to write the screenplay for the Beatles film *Yellow Submarine* in the Sixties. *Love Story* followed soon after. He was still teaching at Yale and still producing articles such as "The Comedy of Plautus" and winning a Guggenheim Fellowship in-between.

In the intervening years, he has written more than 100 scholarly articles and five non-fiction books (including

the "definitive" study of Caesar Augustus), worked for the Peace Corps, picked up three Emmy nominations, lectured in Tokyo and Tel Aviv, at Johns Hopkins and in Hamburg. He sometimes writes in German, and a shelf of his study is taken up with 80 volumes of German classical dictionary, which he says scholars envy more than any other.

In his novels, Segal likes to think he holds nothing back. For the same reason that he eschewed for his "pop" books the notion of the pseudonym that other academics might have required, he is happier than most to bare his soul. It is quite easy to believe that he himself does reveal all, if at the speed of his own choosing. His books, even the best-sellers, are by way of being a personal striptease.

"I have never revealed more of myself than in this new book," he says, although

he denies it is entirely autobiographical. In fact, Segal, the son of a rabbi, writes in *Acts of Faith* about... the son of a rabbi. (He also writes about a daughter of a rabbi who becomes one herself, and about a boy called Tim Hogan who beats up little Jews, breaks their windows and later becomes a Catholic priest.) His rabbis talk the way he remembers rabbis talked. Sometimes, his priests do too.

"I can remember several times during my Brooklyn childhood when I was beaten up by the likes of Tim Hogan as I walked to my Hebrew school," he says. "I never really understood why the mere sight of me in my skullcap aroused such rage."

His own parents were a profound influence on him. His father died when he was 52 years old, "weighing 180 pounds", which is one reason for the son's own gym and swimming pool and why he has a man who comes to work out with him every day. Ask which is the trophy he is proudest of — certificates for his doctorates and literary awards and the Emmy nominations, along with a photograph of Ryan O'Neal, Ali MacGraw, and the director Arthur Hiller from *Love Story* sent to him on his fiftieth birthday, cover the walls of his study — and he will point to the statuette which shows

he won a 33-mile race qualifying him for the London-Brighton marathon of 1963.

But it isn't just in this negative physical sense that he is strongly influenced by his father. The older Segal wanted Erich to be a rabbi like himself. Instead, the younger man chose a secular life away from religion. Now that is in his past, along with his father. He has become something of a Born-Again Jew: "a rabbi manque, almost," as he puts it. I note the stream of Biblical and Talmudic references which he uses in our conversation.

He says he was born "with a golden chain around my soul. As far as the horizon of our memories, every generation in my family had produced a rabbi. And then I broke the chain and probably my father's heart. This breach of faith has haunted me. I do feel guilty about that. I hope that *Acts of Faith* is a kind of act of restitution."

His mother was one of the hostages captured by Idi Amin at Entebbe and later rescued by the Israelis. "That event has affected practically everything I have done and written since. It made me write more passionately."

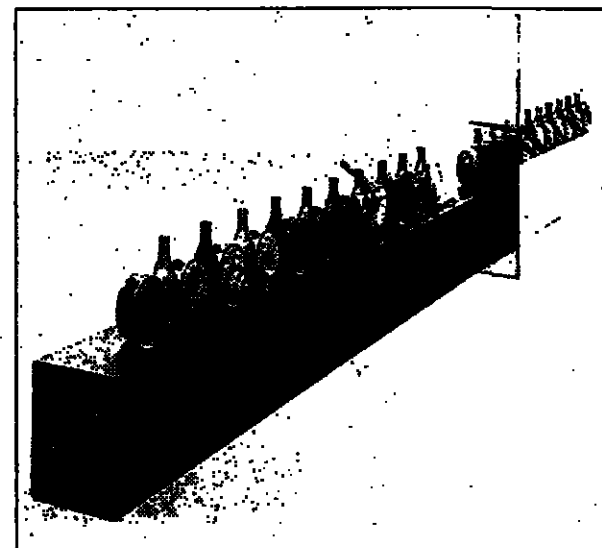
Segal works hard, helped by fax machines and computers, one giving him, on a single disc, access to the entire Oxford English Dictionary, and another containing every word in the Greek language. He gets up at four o'clock in the morning and plays Bach on his miniature piano. "I play very badly, but fortunately I make my living doing other things. But there was a time when I fancied a musical career, so this is by way of repentance for not doing it."

But there are still other things to do. Segal appreciates all the things his money has brought him, yet he still has the ambitions of a 20-year-old. And he adds: "The only thing I still haven't got is a genuine literary reputation. I may never get it, just as I never got a real athletic reputation. I won't get that now but I can still try for the literary socials. I am a tryer."

But he feels guilty about the success he has had. "I don't feel bad when people read a classical book of mine because I know the work that has gone into it and I feel that I have contributed to their understanding. But I certainly have not contributed through my novels to the advancement of civilisation. I'd like to write things of more import. I do think that *Acts of Faith* is a plunge in that direction."

Orderly salutes to the fallen

Richard Cork on the recent work of artist Tony Carter, influenced by the war in the Gulf



Monumental work of life-death polarity: Tony Carter's *American Dream*, at the Imperial War Museum

Unlike the fiery John Keane, whose provocative paintings of the Gulf war ignited such bitter controversy recently, Tony Carter views the same subject with meditative deliberation. From October 1990 until the following summer, Carter was the Henry Moore Artist Fellow at Kenle's Yard and Christ's College, Cambridge. He became preoccupied with the struggle for Kuwait, and everything produced during his Cambridge residency is overshadowed by an elegiac awareness of lost lives.

Carter's Gulf-related sculptures and reliefs, on display at the Imperial War Museum, could hardly be further removed from Keane's paintings. Where Keane hits out with a red-hot impulsiveness stemming from first-hand experience of the conflict, the home-based Carter prefers cool, orderly contemplation. But his pared-down rigour should not be mistaken for emotional detachment.

Carter has always responded to chance encounters with found objects, often of the most mundane kind. He tries to transform their meaning by juxtaposing and incorporating them in impeccably presented, often unpredictable clusters of disparate elements.

The object which became the catalyst for his involvement with the Gulf was a water canteen, emblazoned with a red, white and blue striped cover. The unexpected colours seemed to make the container heavy with inescapable references to the desert war. From the outset, though, Carter realised that the canteen's nourishing function was under threat.

In the first work he made with this intriguing form, the water-carrier hangs posed between life and death. Suspended from a nail on a minimalist painting divided equally into vertical areas of black and white, the canteen is positioned on the borderline between these two extremes. Its stopper dangles from a chain, implying that the water has been consumed. But a glass bead enclosing a trapped air-bubble is attached to the stopper,

like a final elongated drop waiting to fall. Once it has gone, Carter implies, all further hope of sustaining life vanishes as well.

This preoccupation with fragility runs through the entire show, lending a welcome tension to works which, as in Carter's non-Gulf show at the Anthony Reynolds Gallery, might otherwise remain beleaguered in an arid stillness. *American Dream*, a monumental piece occupying a room of its own at the Imperial War Museum, transfers the life-death polarity from the wall to the floor. On a long plinth divided in the centre by an upright bronze sheet, more canteens alternate with wine bottles. Most of the striped covers remain intact on one side of the sheet, where the bottles still contain red or white liquid.

On the other side, however, all but one of the canteens are bronze casts, stripped of the

colours which once gave them a martial vitality. The accompanying bottles are uncorked and empty, reinforcing the idea that their passage through the bronze sheet was akin to death by fire.

Carter's decision to retain one striped canteen among all these drained vessels only accentuates their melancholy. They look scorched and useless, and an abandoned hand-torch emphasises the ominous absence of the man who must once have held it.

The same props are re-assembled in a single cluster for *American Dream/Arabian Knight*, but this time they are dwarfed by a large painting of white stars on a black ground. Displayed on the wall above, it reduces them to the level of tassels hanging from the edge of a stage curtain. The immensity of the nocturnal sky seems to reduce the significance of the drama played out by the cast

of vessels on the stage beneath, and the stars scatter the dark with an apparently festive abandon.

After a time, though, the prevailing blackness of the painting becomes oppressive. It encourages us to remember that many of these vibrant points of light derive from celestial bodies which died a long time ago.

The only work which offers redemption in this predominantly mournful survey centres on two framed photographs of paintings owned by the National Gallery. Both contain images of the Christian Church's symbolic shepherd's crook, held in one panel by St Nicholas as he brings three awed boys back from the dead. Between the photographs, Carter has installed a crook of his own. Leaning against the wall, it consists mainly of a Perspex tube filled with red wine.

Divorced from the familiar context of a bottle, the liquid comes to resemble blood instead. But any threat of spillage is countered, here, by the stopper placed in the top: an ingenious combination of a .303 bullet, a sharpened steel bar and a brass knife blade bent in a tender curve to echo the apex of the Saint's crook. Weapons have been incorporated in this remarkable object only to be robbed of their aggression, like the German Mauser rifle-butt which Gaudier-Brzeska carved into a gentler image just before he died in the first world war.

Carter provides a show which demonstrates how an awareness of war can deepen an artist's work, giving its austerity the eloquence of a lament.

● The exhibition continues at the Imperial War Museum (071-416 5000) until March 15. Tony Carter's other show is at the Anthony Reynolds Gallery (071-491 0621) until February 29.

ARTS BRIEF

Stepped short

ENGLISH National Ballet has announced a shorter London season this summer, cutting its annual Coliseum appearance from two weeks to one, following the poor box-office returns recorded last year. But there is still plenty of new work on offer when the season opens on June 23. There will be the world premiere of a work from the Danish-born choreographer Kim Brandstrup, two works by the American David Parsons receiving their British premieres (*The Envelope* and *Sleep Studies*), and Ben Stevenson's *L* getting a company premiere.

Dane's gain

THE National Film and Television School at Beaconsfield has crossed the North Sea in its search for a director to replace the retiring Colin Young. The successful candidate is Henning Camre, aged 53, director of the Danish Film School since 1975 and chairman of the Danish State Film Studio. Camre's former students include Bille August, director of the Oscar-winning *Pelle the Conqueror*; Camre trained as a cameraman.

Last chance...

IMAGINE Kate Bush manacled to a piano, and you will get an idea of the warbling and writhing that American singer-songwriter Toni Amos goes in for. Armed with a venomous turn of phrase, Amos takes relish in essaying the anger and pain of a woman not to be trifled with. Despite a four-week run in the Top 20, her estimable album, *Little Earthquakes*, has yet to produce a hit single. Amos is at the Norwich Arts Centre (0603 660352) tonight: Spring Street Theatre, Hull (0482 23638) tomorrow; and Sheffield University (0742 724076) on Friday.

TOMORROW IN LIFE & TIMES

Streisand in full flow: George Brown reviews *The Prince of Tides* and the other new films

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MANWATCHING

I think, he knows, so who wins?

Stephanie Calman argues for a little give and take in disputes between the sexes

Recently I had dinner with a couple who I know enjoy a good argument. At one point the subject turned to alternative health care. He said that people who presume to treat serious medical conditions with regard to emotional factors are either misguided or dishonest. I said I believed that many physical ailments have an emotional basis, and therefore respond to a therapeutic approach. He dismissed this. But, I said, I know people whose conditions have been alleviated or even cured in this way.

"You can't measure it," he rejoined. "Anyway, that's anecdotal evidence. It doesn't count."

It seems to me that the way in which human experience is interpreted is precisely what makes arguing fun in the first place. But that is to get a kick out of arguing for its own sake. Why should its purpose be, as one male friend of mine insists, to "bring the other person round to your point of view"? That motive implies success and failure, a winner and a loser. Surely one can merely flex the verbal muscles without having to throw a punch?

'Surely one can merely flex the verbal muscles without having to throw a punch?'

In a classic of the genre the other day, a fellow writer extrapolated from one remark by one artistic director the "fact" that the entire theatrical establishment is prejudiced against plays written by men.

The examples I came up with to counter this — Friel, Pinter, Ayckbourn — were all dismissed as exceptions. I couldn't help thinking afterwards that if he had revealed the origins of grievance, and shared his own experience, it might have been a more interesting afternoon.

I listened to a man and a woman I know advancing the pros and cons of cohabitation versus marriage. She favoured the former. He was against.

"But you live with your girlfriend now," she said finally. "You're personalising it," he said, and completed his exposition by leaving the room.

A male colleague tells me the trouble with women is that they always want to discuss the relationship just when you're going to sleep. Who said anything about relationships?

"Oh, it's all about that really," he said. "You're reacting emotionally," I told him, and hung up.

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A British woman in Romania found a horrifying fate awaiting healthy orphans. Ray Clancy reports

ADRIAN BROOKS



Bright eyes, dark future: Sophie Thurnham with a boy at the refurbished orphanage in Ioneseni, 50 miles away from Podriga where, aged 18, he may be forced to go

Rotting in Romania

On the day that Sophie Thurnham, a 24-year-old British woman, arrived at the remote Podriga state hospital in the north of Romania last November, the sun was shining but it was bitterly cold. The hospital for the mentally and physically disabled, a former nobleman's house, looked majestic. Its turrets and stone pillars hid scraps of human misery.

One of the first things Miss Thurnham saw was a dead man lying, unattended, on a bed surrounded by half-naked patients.

That image prompted her to begin the task of bringing some sort of normality to the stinking, lice-infested hospital where 86 people existed rather than lived.

She persuaded the staff at Podriga to allow her, and the two aid workers who arrived with her, to clean up the hospital. "They didn't mind us cleaning out the drains and washing people because it was work that they never did anyway. The staff sat in one room watching television and drinking coffee," she says. After the first day she just kept going back and was tolerated rather than welcomed. The conditions were inhuman. "The beds were sordid. We decided to start by washing everything with disinfectant then we discovered that there was no running water."

Miss Thurnham's route to Podriga was an unusual one. After graduating in law from London University she took a year off to travel. She had already trekked across Europe with her donkey Hannibal following in the footsteps of the Carthaginian general and was on her way back to

Britain when she heard about conditions in Romania. She turned around and set off for Romania with Hannibal.

Trekking through Transylvania, and learning Romanian on the way, she arrived in the summer of 1990 at Ioneseni orphanage about 50 miles from Podriga, close to the border with Moldavia. Conditions had been deplorable at the orphanage until aid arrived from the West. Now the children sleep in neat rows of bunk beds, paint pictures, make candles and learn to read and write.

When Miss Thurnham heard that at the age of 18 the Ioneseni children were sent to the hospital at Podriga, rumoured to be in an even worse state than some orphanages had been, she was horrified. She had seen her adopted handicapped brother Stevie, now aged 17, enjoy life with a family. "I was brought up to believe that everyone has the right to a decent life," she says. "I just could not sit back and see these children sent to an institution where they would be mistreated."

She arrived in Podriga to find "one cook, one fire lit and the dead man lying on a dirty bed in an outhouse that was being used as a dormitory," she says. "The temperature was well below freezing and the people were half-naked."

"We had spent a year creating a safe haven at Ioneseni. I wondered what was the point of working so hard building a decent environment if they were to be thrown back into the rags and filth of Podriga."

She found herself up against unhelpful bureaucracy, corruption

and theft. At Podriga clothes and food sent from the West are routinely stolen by staff or people close to them. Items are sold on the blackmarket or consumed at home.

The man in charge at Podriga looks all food away in his storeroom. "When Wandsworth prison sent boxes of oranges and jars of peanut butter and lemon curd they were immediately put in the locked storeroom. The next day I asked for the oranges so that I could share them out but was met with blank looks and 'What oranges?'"

With her usual determination Miss Thurnham pushed into the storeroom and brought out the oranges. "There was sheer delight on their faces. It was wonderful."

She had identified one of the main problems preventing reform in hospitals in Romania — lack of motivation by the staff. Romania has never had a teaching hospital for nurses. Only those women who could do nothing else were forced by the regime to become nurses with only basic training.

Changes have been forthcoming at Podriga due to Miss Thurnham's organisational abilities and to the skills of her two companions, nurses Collette Hughes from Belfast and Maureen Bonar from Edinburgh. The patients are now in neat dormitories and Miss Thurnham hand-stitched curtains to brighten the rooms. "We were sent tins of cream paint but the authorities would not let us paint the walls because they said all hospital walls should be white. That was a joke because the walls were already a

dirty brown colour because of the filth."

There is still no running water. The stench of human urine is only cancelled out by the smell of human excrement. The problem of the lack of water could be solved relatively simply, Miss Thurnham has continuously lobbied the local health department in Botosani who promised to investigate the chances of bringing running water to Podriga. "They commissioned a survey of the most expensive project imaginable that involved sinking wells at the cost of £15,000. We pointed out that all that was needed was a simple pipeline to bring mains water seven kilometres from Saveni. The problem is exacerbated because they think that the West should pay for everything. They draw up a costly plan and then challenge the West to pay."

She does not like her efforts being described as a one woman crusade. She points out that without the help and commitment of the aid workers from the Romanian Project UK, Scottish Branch, she would have been unable to help. Where she has excelled, however, is in bringing the conditions to the notice of the Romanian authorities. When her father, Peter Thurnham, Conservative MP for Bolton north east, visited Podriga she accompanied him to a meeting with the department of health where the health minister Mircea Măiorescu said he had no money to improve conditions in hospitals. "It was so frustrating. He did not even know that Podriga existed," Miss Thurnham says.

There is a spark of hope. One

official at the health department indicated that she was aware of the task facing Romania. "We have no social welfare system, no facilities for patients to be cared for in the community," said Diana Nistorescu, the director general responsible for health care. "The population at large would simply rather forget about psychiatric patients because these people are a source of discomfort." But plans have been drawn up for a nurses teaching college that includes a special course in psychiatric nursing.

Although there are now eight British aid workers at Podriga the Romanian workers continue to do as little as possible and the daily tasks take their toll. Not unnaturally, Miss Thurnham and her colleagues suffer from periodic bouts of depression, days when the work seems fruitless. "It is hard to keep going. Each evening as we finish work there is a chorus of enquiries as to whether or not we are coming back the next day," Miss Thurnham says. They live in a small apartment in Saveni that has no hot water but is luxury compared with Podriga.

"I don't think any of us could return to normal life until things have changed here. Working at the orphanage showed me that drastic change was possible. I have given myself a deadline of October to return to Britain. If I have managed to get running water to Podriga I shall feel a certain sense of satisfaction."

Anyone wishing to make a donation for improvements to Podriga should contact the Podriga Fund, Romanian Project UK, Scottish Branch, 14 Frederick Street, Edinburgh EH2 2HB.

Labours of love, or maybe just a rip-off

Housework is done by women so men can have some kind of a social life, Selma James says. She wants the men to pay up

Men tend to see their home as a place to relax in. Women tend to see it as a place of work. Work, moreover, that is monotonous, lonely, hard, never-ending — and unpaid. It is this last aspect of domestic labour that most rankles with Selma James. Twenty years ago, she founded the Wages for Housework (WFH) campaign to do something about this lack of pay.

Ms James, who was born in Brooklyn in 1930 and came to England in 1955, first put forward her arguments for re-thinking the financial status of domestic chores in a pamphlet, "Women, the unions and work", at the 1972 National Women's Liberation Conference in Manchester. Next Friday she will address the 20th anniversary celebrations of the WFH campaign in London which will be attended by delegates from all over the world.

What, if anything, do they have to celebrate? "I can't say I think we have victory in sight but things are moving very quickly," she says. "We hear less of the 'what did you do all day?' and 'I am just a housewife', although those attitudes are still around and young women have to be quite militant to hold on to what they refuse to do. I see a difference in young men but men generally have no idea how hard women work. They are bowled over when they find out."

"The housework we do — laundry, cleaning, shopping, preparing and cooking meals, caring for the ill and elderly, giving emotional support — all enables other people to do their jobs. A lot of the work wives do is really to make a



Seventies heaven: beats as it sweeps as it cleans

way for their husbands to have some kind of a social life. It is invisible work, but no less valuable for that."

Ms James's first feminist polemic appeared as a free pamphlet, *A Woman's Place*, published in 1953 by Correspondence, an underground organisation based in New York. *A Woman's Place* developed into a regular column written under the pseudonyms Marie Brant and Ellen Santori, because the politically repressive McCarthy era was then in full swing. The reason she emigrated to England was to marry C.L.R. James, the cricket writer, historian and Marxist, who had been deported from the United States. Mr James died three years ago.

The notion that it will be fairer,

and cheaper for the taxpayer, if men simply shared the burden of housework, is one Ms James dismisses with the indulgent smile of a 62-year-old grandmother who has learnt a thing or two about human nature. "Many women don't have a man to share the housework with in any case but the idea that men, out of the goodness of their hearts, are going to turn themselves into the slaves that we are is not a practical one. The ones who put that forward on the whole have au pairs, day cleaners or servants and are often feminists."

She has also learned a thing or two about feminists over the years and has decided that she is no longer one of them. "In 1971 I called myself a feminist, but now I avoid the description because feminism has come to mean careerism at the expense of other women — and other men. It has meant a few women getting good posts but feminists have not represented women. Feminism is a kind of competition for power in the popular mind with which I don't want to be associated."

There are, she says, two questions women always ask when confronted by the concept of wages for housework. "Who will pay for it?" and "Will we ever get it?" Her answers are "Trident" — she would syphon off the entire military budget to pay for unremunerated labour — and "Yes".

Her optimism springs from existing welfare provisions. "Child benefit and income support are forms of recognition that women working in the home have an entitlement to wages, even though it is not enough. Those benefits are



The big dust-up: Selma James wants domestic labour, monotonous and never-ending, to be paid for creeping wages for housework and after you creep you walk, after you walk you run.

She does not, though, have much faith in either of the main political parties, dismissing both the Labour party's proposed ministry for women and the government's burgeoning concern for "women's issues". The political right, she says, does not want to deal with the working woman really.

"I think every woman is a working woman," she says. "The right is ready to say the housewife is just wonderful so it acknowledges some portion of the work she does — which is why in the past the full-time housewife has supported the Conservatives. That is now changing. But that is because the

housewife has disappeared — but the housework hasn't."

Wages for housework should not be confined to women who stay at home looking after children, Ms James says. Single women, because they earn so much less than men should get it too, she argues — as Ms James women whose children have grown up or who have no children. And she is not worried that men might demand housework wages as most surveys show they hardly do any.

Who would monitor how well or sloppily the housework is being done? Who, she counters, monitors doctors?

Ms James does some monitoring of her own. She recently wrote to British Gas to complain she had to wait for half an hour in Kilburn High Road, north London. She

asked them: "Are you going to pay me for the work I did saving your employing someone behind the counter?" They have replied assuring her they will examine the point she raises.

Such small skirmishes leave Ms James with no sense of defeatism. A core of 30 women working at WFH's headquarters is enough, she insists, to "lift mountains". "But it is still individual women rebelling in their individual homes who will make this campaign work. A lot of women let their sons and husbands iron their own shirts, or they buy drip-dry. All of this gets a message across. It also strikes a bit of terror into the hearts of men that you are just not going to take it."

HEATHER KIRBY

AND BRIEF

A feast, and no lie

A LUXURY holiday for two in Tokyo, a family break at EuroDisney and a seven day Mediterranean Cruise for two on the five-star *Stella Solaris* are up for auction at the George Washington Ball next Wednesday. The ball, which funds the George Washington Business Scholarship — a post-graduate grant enabling a young British executive to attend a school of business administration in the US — and the Evelyn Wrench Awards, will take place at The Dorchester Hotel in Park Lane, London W1, and costs £90 including champagne reception, dinner with wine, ball and entertainment. There are still some tickets left, and organisers are anxious for a full-house. Enquiries to Colie Parker at the English Speaking Union, Dartmouth House, 37 Charles Street, London W1X 8AB (071-493 3328).

Affair offer

THE catering advice booklet "It's Your Affair" is preparing to launch its 1992 edition. Although it targets the Jewish wedding and bar-mitzvah market, it sells itself with tongue in cheek: "Two smart ladies meet in the street. 'Beckie, you're looking wonderful! What have you been up to?' 'Well, Sadie, guess what I'm having an affair.' 'An affair? Wonderful! Tell me, who's doing the catering?'"

The booklet carries advertisement for caterers, dress hire companies, cake-makers and toastmasters in the London area. Helping Hands Information Services, 7 Orchard Close, Elstree, Hertfordshire, WD6 3PR (081-953 8444) will happily send out copies.

VICTORIA McKEE

Trancing for beginners

Alice Thomson attends a hypnotherapy group session and, despite concentrating terribly hard, remains a sceptic

Stephen Brooks is a new age hypnotist. He doesn't get women to strip off their clothes on stage, ask them to eat onions as though they were apples or tell people to look into his eyes. All he wants to do is to change their lives.

There are more than two thousand practising hypnotherapists in Britain claiming to use natural techniques to help people give up smoking, lose weight or conquer their phobias for the price of a thousand cigarettes. Mr Brooks teaches people how to do it for themselves and holds weekend self-hypnosis courses in London for members of the medical profession. Now he wants to bring hypnosis to the masses. He dreams of seeing his self-hypnosis course in every town in Britain by the year 2000.

Recently Mr Brooks held the first of his new courses at Stepping Hill hospital in Stockport, Greater Manchester. "We go into trances involuntarily every day but I am going to teach you how to control your mind travel," Mr Brooks says. "You will learn how to conquer stress, fear and pain and achieve your ambitions. You don't have to listen to anything I say, you will take it all in subconsciously. One day you will look back and see what you have achieved."

Mr Brooks has slicked-back hair, a healthy tan and a confident, soothing voice. The 40 people sitting in the canary-coloured room shuffle expectantly. Most of them have come with a problem. They have read the advertisement in *Nursing Times*, the *British Medical Journal* or the *Manchester Evening News* and have been willing to spend £11.62 for the course.

Vic, a retired schoolteacher, was a little deaf and worried that he wouldn't be able to hear. Joanne, a retired nurse, was concerned there might be side-effects and we could all go mad. "You will have eight psychotherapists, the cream of the country, to help you to achieve

your objectives. All my assistants and I want you to do is relax and trust us," Mr Brooks says.

The assistants comprise a selection of committed self-hypnotists who have all been trained on Mr Brooks's four-month weekend diploma course in integral therapy (hypnosis) and are now practising private hypnotherapists.

Vic is sceptical. Mr Brooks brings him to the front and in a soporific voice he asks Vic to count to 20 with him and concentrate on a point on the ceiling. As Vic's head begins to nod, Mr Brooks says: "There are two words in your vocabulary that you are going to change. Vic. Every time you want to say *Bur* you will say *And*. Saying the word *Bur* will make you feel guilty, silly or strange. Vic. Your life is going to change for the positive."

Coming out of the trance, Vic still feels he hasn't achieved anything. "I am wasting all your time. I have few friends and I feel very lonely," he says, still sounding negative (without the buzz). Next it was Gill's turn. Gill, a teacher, kept dreaming of a limousine. The rest of the class began to go into a trance as we were told to focus first on objects in the room and then inside our heads. Once we thought we were in a trance we could introduce objectives that we wanted to achieve, like buying a limousine.

I still didn't feel I was achieving that higher state. "What do you want to do, levitate?" Mr Brooks says. By lunchtime Joanne was unconvinced. "He is like a car salesman, all chatter and no goods," she says. Mario agrees.

Back in the classroom, Mr Brooks decides to take us all on holiday to a tropical island. I close my eyes and fall asleep, weighed down more by the lunchtime spaghetti than by Mr Brooks's words and miss out on going down the hill and onto the beach where Mr Brooks tells everyone to put all their worries into a black cloud. We form into pairs. Bob, a



What do you most want to get out of your life? Stephen Brooks gives Alice Thomson some singular attention at the session in Stepping Hill hospital, Stockport

retired neurologist and now a hypnotist, usually works with sufferers of irritable bowel syndrome. He has to come on the course because he is so shy he finds it hard to hypnotise people.

The doubters were then told a story to reassure us that we, too, could eventually find self-hypnosis. Mr Brooks told us about a man who wanted to have perfect sight again. He had got him to revert to childhood and the man's sight was restored, at least until he remembered he had been hypnotised. Like an evangelical prayer meeting every miracle cure story was confirmed by a chorus from his assistants.

"Other therapists go into it looking for something in themselves. I went into it for the money and for the satisfaction I get from

helping people to change their lives," Mr Brooks says during tea.

He saw a hypnotist on television when he was 12 and "my parents said 'don't ever go near one of those people'". The next time I saw a hypnotist advertising in town I crept into one of his shows and I was hooked.

Eighteen years ago, aged 23, Mr Brooks became a pupil of an American named Milton Erickson, a psychiatrist who had a hypnosis practice in America. "Hypnotherapy wasn't taken seriously in Britain when I started my practice, so ten years ago I set up a training course for people in the medical profession. They began to send their patients, so I decided to throw the course open to everyone." His weekends in London accommodate 100 people.

Hoping for a revelation, I volunteered as a subject the next morning. Mr Brooks told me to relax and attempted to put me into a trance. Then he asked me to clench my fist and put all my determination and confidence into that hand. "You can't open that hand now, can you?" he says.

I could. I was beginning to feel a complete failure. "Try and imagine what you want to achieve and keep telling yourself what you will do to achieve it," Mr Brooks says. I felt far too relaxed to give myself any suggestions. "Not to worry," Mr Brooks says.

Mr Brooks rarely practises on his wife. But recently, when she had a morning sickness, he hypnotised her every morning

before work and she was fine, he says, until he came home in the evening. He never gets tired or stressed even when he spent 22 consecutive weekends teaching self-hypnosis courses in London last summer. He hopes to use the proceeds from the self-hypnosis business for his main passion in life: setting up an Aids centre in Thailand to educate people on the disease.

After lunch on the second day and still no dramatic result. Mr Brooks asks us to decide what we want to give up: smoking, drinking, eating? This is what many of the women have been waiting for, a miraculous way to shed that flab. Brian comes up to the front. He has been a heavy smoker since his wife died. Mr Brooks gives him two images to think of when picks

up a cigarette. His father dying of chronic emphysema and then his children hugging him. Which would he prefer? The children. Brian begins to cry. He will not smoke anymore. Mr Brooks is enthusiastic. "You're a human being," he says. "You deserve great love." The chorus takes notes.

There is an awed silence among the initiates. As the course draws to a close, most people are feeling positive. Even Joanne is buoyant. Mario is not happy. "I have been waiting to feel an altered state of consciousness and I haven't," he says. But even Mario is swapping addresses with the leggy nurse at the end of the afternoon.

Course details: *British Hypnosis Research*, 3 Foston Place, Brighton, Sussex BN2 1HA.

Foster but looser

The architect of the home of a black theatre company was determined to avoid any hint of "ethnic dogma"



Relaxed approach: Abiodun Odedina, the architect

The result is the remodelled Cochrane, costing nearly £500,000 pounds, and paid for with the Roundhouse money and a matching sum from the London Institute.

The architect of the remodelling is Abiodun Odedina of Robinson Thorne Architects, who left his native Nigeria to study at the school of architecture in Hull. "It wasn't a very grievous decision on my part to come to England," he says. "I was only because I wanted a change." Now aged 31, he seems, in his design for the Cochrane, determined to avoid any hint of ethnic dogma. "I didn't want a lot of African masks hanging on the wall."

From the outside, his scheme, although relatively modest, is very much in the high-technology idiom established by, and internationally identified with, British architects such as Sir Richard

Rogers, Sir Norman Foster, Nicholas Grimshaw and Michael Hopkins.

The danger, Mr Odedina admits, was of ending up with three unrelated architectural units — the Grade II-listed original building, the 1960s extension, and the remodelling. The original building is serious and beefy with arched ground floor windows and a heavy cornice above. Before the remodelling, it was separated from the extension by a narrow external corridor. Now, Mr Odedina has united the two by glazing over the corridor, using the cornice as a support for the glazing. "We have tried to touch the original building as lightly as possible," he explains. Unfortunately, an ugly enclosed bridge linking the two buildings remains visible through the glass. Mr Odedina's budget would not allow him to replace the bridge — but he reclaims

unperturbed. "It has got to be seen as part of the evolution of the building," he says. "I think it is all right to show the story so far."

Inside, by removing a small balcony of 33 seats, Mr Odedina has been able to extend the first floor out over the auditorium.

Taken with the extension over the street, this has created enough room for a new office and control room, as well as a much enlarged bar. "It's a bit more complex than just wrapping a fancy window," he says. All the same, much thought was evidently given to the technical detailing of the curved wall of glazing — and the resulting views down New Oxford Street are breathtaking.

So is the internal colour scheme, described by Ms Brewster as "cheeky". Here, at last, Mr Odedina acknowledges the peculiarity of the building's new purpose. Walls, columns and ceilings are painted strong, pure colours — African colours. At one point, there is a junction between a curved wall of glazing and a yellow ceiling, a red wall and an indigo wall. "It's not a magnolia scheme," as Mr Odedina puts it.

So when the audience arrives for the first night of Talawa's first production, a week today, they should find themselves in a building as eclectic as the company it houses.

The contrast between the cool and rational structural alterations, and the warm, even hectic, interior has apparently disconcerted some of the art school staff. Mr Odedina's view is that "the effect of each is heightened by the other". He happily admits that he showed Camden's planners illustrations of Sir Norman Foster's new Sackler Gallery at the Royal Academy, to help to explain how a modern, high-tech intervention could be made to work in an older building. The difference, he likes to think, is that his work is "a bit more funky" than that of severe, monochromatic Sir Norman. "I love his stuff," he says. "I just think he should loosen up."

Talawa Theatre Company presents *The Road by Wolf Soyinka*, the Cochrane Theatre, Southampton Row, London EC1, February 26 to March 28 at 7.30pm

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Political mutton dressed up as lamb

Ludwig Wittgenstein constructed an entire system of philosophy on the impossibility of finding any single characteristic shared by everything which we call a game. The late professor could equally have chosen the word "news". News has no defining quality. Even the dictionary definition "important or recent interesting happenings" leaves obvious unanswered questions. What is important? What is interesting? What is recent? What, even, is a happening?

In the day-to-day running of a newspaper or a television news programme, this presents few practical difficulties. A news editor who has to cogitate to see that "man bites dog" is a better story than "dog bites man" is not long for his *mériter*. But the run-up to the general election is posing the

question in a way that has even the most instinctive news editors groping for an answer. On Monday this week, the Tory party held a press conference on Labour and the trade unions. Labour held one on the National Health Service. So did the Liberals. On Tuesday Labour held not one, two, three but four such conferences. None of these related to anything in the news. None was likely to produce much that strictly qualified as news. Only the most promiscuous political groupie would mind if they were ignored in paper.

Such press conferences used to be confined to the period of the general election itself. One argument frequently used to dissuade prime ministers from long campaigns was that the conferences would become boring. But in the campaign of 1991-92, such press

conferences have been held already, most weekdays, since last summer. Their tedium is undisputed, even by most of those giving them. Should they nevertheless be covered?

The parties are aware of the media temptation to say "no". Techniques abound for dressing up such events as "news". They include:

• The pseudo-policy. This consists of publishing a document of some kind setting out what the party will do in one policy area or another. Publication is the happening which is said to merit coverage. Were these genuinely new proposals, there could be no complaint. The difficulty comes

when previously published policies are reissued between fresh covers. Fresh covers have been pouring out of party headquarters these last few months.

• The pseudo-study. The party publishes what purports to be a study of a subject rather than simply an expression of opinion. Thus Labour has this month produced a survey showing that unemployment has doubled in marginal constituencies, and the Tories last month a document "costing" Labour's pledges at £36 billion. The quality of the information is secondary to the quality of the headline sought.

• The pseudo-poll. Both major parties release the results of

private polls. These are designed to give a hard fact that can lead off a soft story about a party's proposals, by showing their alleged popularity. There is often a suspicion that the figures are rigged. Although newspapers can demand full publication of the poll, under the Market Research Society's code, it rarely happens.

• The pseudo-poster. To get a picture published in the paper, the party unveils a poster, heralding the start of a poster campaign. There may only be one copy of the poster.

The opposition parties are driven to such devices. The days when parties spread their message by word of mouth have gone.

Communication today is media communication. For an opposition party that creates problems since, by definition, oppositions cannot actually do anything that affects the real world. If they did not use such devices, they would constantly be reacting to government. Government would set the agenda, choosing those issues on which its ground was strongest.

Should news media refuse to play ball? Editors are accused of many things, but naivety is not one of them. They of course know that they are being manipulated. But there are powerful arguments against boycott. In principle, most editors pay at least lip service to the demands of fairness and pluralism. In the case of the heavy newspapers and television news, it goes further. They take pains to maintain balance in news if not in comment.

In practice, there is no good alternative to reporting these events. Serious newspapers want to cover serious issues. It would seem arrogant for them to decide which issues are most important, on which days and on which ground.

Each day, when newspaper executives assemble to debate the day's paper, they will groan to hear that party x is holding a press conference on issue y. Next morning their paper is nevertheless likely to report them. The best such reports will point out what is and what is not new, and will set the facts against the highland claims of the parties. But not to report would be to claim the role for which Stanley Baldwin so effectively chided the press: "power without responsibility... the prerogative of the harlot throughout the ages."

Analytic overkill

James Hogan argues that current affairs programmes on TV are dying for a bit of human interest

Most people who work in current affairs and factual programming on television know only too well that a vital ingredient has been missing for some time, despite the huge amount of programmes that fall into this broad category. Behind the scenes, there is a sense of malaise among programme-makers that transcends the effects of economic recession or the structural changes in the industry. They are aware that the viewer is currently being served up a diet of programmes that is far too uniform and exclusive, with an over-emphasis on abstract, repetitive analysis. Analytical overkill.

There is nothing wrong with analysis. It is one way of telling the story. But it is not the only way or necessarily the best way. Too often self-consciously analytical programmes, lacking any sign of visual flair, appear to shut out the viewer, conducting an esoteric dialogue with other similarly-minded programme-makers. Layer upon layer of analysis, within programmes and across programme strands, produces needlessly dull and boring results. This has a devastating effect on the beleaguered viewer, who understandably jumps channels or switches off altogether.

It is no accident that current affairs audiences have

slumped in recent years, placing channel controllers in the invidious position of choosing between airing important issues and maintaining a lead in the ratings.

The ability to attract and sustain high audience figures will be critical in the new world of broadcasting. The idea, still fashionable among some programme-makers, that audiences do not matter is a dangerous fallacy that betrays a desire for unaccountability. High audience figures should be to producers what votes are to politicians.

The real challenge is to maximise people's interest in current affairs and factual programmes. Up to now far too much energy has been spent on trying to rationalise away poor viewing figures.

So what is missing and how do we fill the gap? First of all, we need to go back to basics and remind ourselves what makes good television.

The essence of good television is popular, accessible programming that illuminates, excites, informs and entertains. There is no reason at all why current affairs programmes should not be entertaining and reach out to the widest possible audience. Indeed, in a plural democracy like ours it is essential that they should do so. Politics, like television, is about personalities and people's lives, as well as ideas.



Three tears for Maggie: no one could deny the magnetic spectacle provided by the downfall of Mrs Thatcher

Some of the most gripping television has stemmed from equally gripping political dramas. No one could deny the magnetic spectacle provided by the downfall of Margaret Thatcher or the gradual slipping away of power from Mikhail Gorbachev after the abortive Soviet coup. Big events like these touch people, allowing programme-makers to break away from the set agendas and inject a more personal, energetic, less predictable style of coverage.

It is the raw material that is in short supply and often missing altogether: real people in tough situations. Instead of a surfeit of macro-economic programmes viewers want to hear about the real economy; personal finance; how people are coping with the recession; what happens to middle-managers when they lose their jobs.

They want to see inside the health service, inside hospitals and doctors' surgeries. They want to hear about the reality of coping with AIDS: just how easy it is to contract? How can they protect their children? And what will happen to the world if a cure is not found? They want to hear the inside story about education: how teachers really feel about being blamed for a variety of social disorders and the effects of Britain's two-tier educational system.

They want to hear about transport: how road congestion is affecting people's lives, and the human and economic cost of wasted hours spent in traffic jams.

Of course, there are programmes that deal with these subjects but the craze for analysis, putting everything into neat little boxes such as "politics" and "money", de-

nies the vital connections between these subjects. This approach frequently fails to follow through with the confrontations between those people most affected and the decision-makers.

Viewers are switching off because this analytical approach creates a dehumanised form of television that is ultimately neither very illuminating nor entertaining.

Viewers want to be more directly involved with programmes, using their experience to seek information, make a point or test an argument. There are not nearly enough programmes where the people who affect our lives or act as symbols are placed at the heart of the debate: not just politicians or businessmen, but actors, architects, advertising gurus, sportsmen and women, pop stars, etc. Television's interactive potential should be exploited to a far greater extent, using votes, phone-ins and competitions.

Analytical overkill has not only been responsible for denying the voice of the

people, it has also undermined the individuality of presenters. Chunks of analysis-laden video-tape frequently stand in the way of lively debate or cross-examination. We need to develop a whole new genre of programming in which the presenter is much more directly involved with all aspects of the programme and much more closely identified with the subject matter.

Up to now some people have feared that the quest for high audiences would distort the truth and damage the authority of programme-makers. But this puts the argument the wrong way round. The starting point should be the enthusiastic commitment to real-life current affairs and factual programming, coupled with imaginative story-telling. Rising audience figures and appreciation will follow.

James Hogan, former BBC editor of Question Time and This Week, and senior producer of Panorama and Newsnight, is now managing director of Broadstone Productions

Mags dogged by recession

COVER STORY

Jane Reed



WHILE newspapers publish their circulation figures at the end of each month, magazines still reveal theirs every six months - often reluctantly.

Which is odd, because overall magazine publishing has some high spots in a generally bleak media environment. Business titles dependent on recruitment advertising are in the doldrums, but some of the newly-released circulation figures for consumer titles are defying recessionary gravity.

The women's weeklies market has grown 72 per cent in six years - from four big hitters to ten. The classic IPC four, *Woman*, *Woman's Own*, *Realist* and *Weekly*, have suffered. According to the Audit Bureau of Circulation, they all continue to record year-on-year losses - from 6 per cent for *Woman's Own* to 15 per cent for *Woman's Weekly*, which is now seriously under the million.

On the other hand IPC has carved out for itself the biggest slice of the TV listings market. *TV Times* may be down 50 per cent, but in the newly de-regulated listings environment it is doing well to hold above the million. *Radio Times* is the single individual winner at 1.6 million but the tactical launch of *What's On TV*, designed to supplant the other newcomers, *TV Quick*, has been successful: its first July-December figure at 1,211,686 is within spitting distance of *TV Times*'s 1,280,505. Most other IPC titles have declined.

The National Magazine

Company has shown an 18 per cent increase across its six main titles since 1989. Tony Mansfield, managing director, is modest about the company's success: "We have a small number of titles and can focus them very precisely." *Good Housekeeping*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Country Living*, *Harpers* all showed increases. But the biggest successes are the newly re-launched *She* (up 20 per cent to 283,731) and relatively new entrant *House Beautiful* (up 25.7 per cent to 271,319).

At Conde Nast they are celebrating, too. Not about advertising revenues, of course. But since 1989 their super-glossies have shown an overall increase of 4 per cent. *Vanity Fair* has exceeded its launch target of 50,000; *Vogue* is up 5 per cent, *Tatler* 12 per cent; *House and Garden* and *The World of Interiors* were both down.

E.M.P., the other magazine giant, has yet to release all its figures but, like IPC, circulations in its METRO division are down 15 per cent since 1989. In a mixed bag of ups and downs, the fall of 13.9 per cent for *Just* is attributed to a decreasing market of young female teenagers. *Smash Hits* was down 17 per cent; *More!* and *New Woman* were up 8.4 per cent and 5.3 per cent respectively. *Big!* got bigger by 26 per cent. If all circulations were down, you could blame the market. But when one title is up and another down in the same sector, the cause has to be the magazine.

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Responsible for typing general correspondence and questionnaire responses, maintaining diaries, scheduling meetings and liaising with executives both within and outside the company, you will need to be confident, articulate and able to work on your own initiative and cope under pressure.

Ideally conversant with WordPerfect 5.1 (60/70 wpm) you may be required to use Lotus 1-2-3 spreadsheets. A knowledge of database and DTP gained in a marketing department would also be useful, but not essential.

To apply please write with full CV to Julie Parker, at the address below. Please list separately any companies to whom you do not wish your application forwarded as replies will be sent direct to our client for consideration.

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(Rec Con)

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How often do you ask yourself, "Am I in the right job?" Gill Davies did and the answer was "No!" So she spoke to Cross Selection. Last week Gill took a step up in her career when she joined a leading City bank as Secretary/PA to the Managing Director. If you are high on skills, intelligence and ambition.

Call us now on 071 283 0799.

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A very pleasant, young Director seeks a resilient, lively and hardworking secretary to act as his right hand. Duties include: Client liaison, diary management, travel itineraries plus a fair amount of shorthand/typing. The Corporate Finance area of banking requires a special calibre: high achievers who are well spoken, well presented, enjoy a secretarial role, are prepared to work long hours and have the desire to earn and earn...! Previous banking experience is NOT essential.

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We are currently recruiting for a prestigious US Investment Bank in the City. The qualities we seek include the ability to adapt to the swiftly changing priorities of the banking world, team spirit and a willingness to work hard for high rewards. Fast and accurate secretarial skills (90/60) and a thorough knowledge of Wordperfect 5.1 and/or AppleMac are essential and a steady CV in the financial sector an advantage. Age 26-38. Please contact Victoria Herrington on 071 377 9919 for further details.

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Companies in Central and Greater London. If you are seeking a media career and are prepared to use your secretarial skills in return for total involvement, responsibility and prospects, call one of our Specialist Consultants on:

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Fantastic opportunity to join an extremely successful International Trading Company. As secretary/assistant to a senior trader and his team of four, you must be level headed, flexible and able to prioritise a busy and varied workload. Duties will include making travel arrangements, handling telephone calls and generally coping within a fun but pressured environment. The ideal candidate will be well presented with 'A' levels and skills of 90/50 WP (WordPerfect). Experience within a financial/trading environment essential. Age 25 - 30. Victoria Saxon. Please call Caroline Tuck on 071-437 6832.

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SECRETARY
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up to £14,000

We are a young, growing public relations company based in the City looking for a secretary aged 22+ with at least two years work experience. You will be working for a small team specialising in financial public relations and, in addition to excellent typing skills, you will need to be well organised, adaptable and able to work to tight deadlines.

Please send a CV to Annie Laffoy-Lewis,
42 St John Street, London EC1M 4DT.

APRIL FOOL -
KNIGHTSBRIDGE

On Valentine's Day, our treasure told, She must leave from England's cold. Over the seas to warmer climes, To palm trees and to gin and tonics. Like three lost sheep we're in a mess Without our lovely shepherdess. So if you're happy, bright and able Come and sit around our table. We'll tell you all about our needs So you can boast about your deeds.

Flexible, capable, good-humoured, Secretary/part-timer for our small office. High standards required and appreciated. Send full C.V. including educational background and salaries earned to:
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2 Port Street
London SW1X 9EL.

MARY HOLLAND
ASSOCIATES. 071 726 4132/600 0284

FLORIAN PA
£18K + Mort/Sub + Bonus
Senior secretary, 'A' level, with at least two years' banking exp. sought by City bank. Skills 80/70 with 100wpm and Lotus. Age 28 - 30.
SECRETARY - MARKETING DEPARTMENT
£24K + Mort/Sub + Bonus
A confident, organised, senior secretary, with 'A' levels required by City bank. Exp. of Marketing and DTP systems essential. Age 21 - 24.
Temp to Perm
£14,000 + Mortgage subsidy
Young secretary with fully outgoing personality required for one-to-one client liaison in a leading City investment bank. Age 25 - 28.
LEGAL PA - TEMP TO PERM
£17K + Mort/Sub + Bonus
Knowledge of legal proceedings, 70 wpm shorthand, Support two Directors, must be flexible on City. 'A' level essential. Age 28 - 32.
TRAINING PA - TEMP TO PERM
£17K + Mort/Sub + Bonus
Exp. PA with a strong personality who excels in a training environment required for one-to-one client liaison in a leading City investment bank. Age 25 - 28.

TEL: 071-726 4132 / 600 0284 (TO 9.00 PM) FAX: 071 796 4887 OR 226 5728

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One-off chance to work for a world famous Architect/Designer/Artist organising exhibitions, lectures, liaising with the Press, arranging international travel and generally running the office (light, airy studio in a converted schoolhouse). The position comprises approx 40% typing but this element will diminish with time (initially you must be willing to work for the other Designers and Architects too). A steady work record, preferably gained in a creative environment, aged 27-30s, good skills, flexibility, patience and an understanding attitude essential.

Call Sue Doughty 071 281 2292 (fax 071 272 6071).
Rec Con.

PERSONAL SECRETARY

Excellent organisational and secretarial skills (100/80) to work for a Partner in busy Quantity Surveying practice. Typing (Wordperfect 5.1), shorthand, diary/travel, telephone liaison and involvement. Minus taking experience an advantage. Salary according to age and experience.

Reply with CV to:
Mr Martin Bishop Franklin & Andrews, Hulton House, 161-166 Fleet Street, London EC4A 2AQ
No agencies

PROJECT SECRETARY

Required by leading firm of Architects/Interior Designers to work in highly pressured environment undertaking the basic secretarial tasks for several projects. Excellent secretarial and organisational skills and proficiency in Wordperfect 5.1 necessary. Candidates combining these abilities with flexibility and a sense of humour preferred.

Please reply with C.V. to Box No. 7422.

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A rare opportunity exists within the Mison Group for a confident, well educated, friendly and energetic secretary to work in the Mison Group for a leading, well established company in the financial services industry. We are prepared to train the right individual. However applications are actively encouraged from candidates currently working for Secretarial Recruitment Specialists.

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Evenings only

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TO START
NEXT MONDAY

Small West End professional practice requires Audio Secretary to help run a small office. Experience on Wordperfect 5.1 software essential. Salary by arrangement.

Please telephone 071 935 0885

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£20,000 FOR PA
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Could it be the unusual hours or is it the occasional travel overseas?

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BILINGUAL EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (35-45) with UK or US experience: the Chairman of an American investment bank in Frankfurt is in urgent need of a dynamic, proactive organizer who can simplify, process and prioritise what is truly flexible and who enjoys a cracking pace. Mother tongue standard German, excellent English and fast secretarial skills. Banking background appreciated but not at all vital. Around £25K.
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071 836 3794

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PA/MARKETING EXECUTIVE.

We currently have an excellent opportunity for a PA/Marketing Executive on two high profile consumer goods accounts.

Working with an Account Director, the job involves progressing design, print, advertising, promotions and liaison with clients. In addition to being well organised, outgoing and possessing good WP skills, you are likely to have general experience in a marketing or marketing services environment.

For further details and an application form,
PHONE SANDY OR ANNE ON 0483 8288.

CRÈME DE LA CRÈME
CONTINUES ON
NEXT PAGE

STEVE PARRY/IMPACT



• THE NATIONAL DIRECTORY OF LOCAL SERVICES •